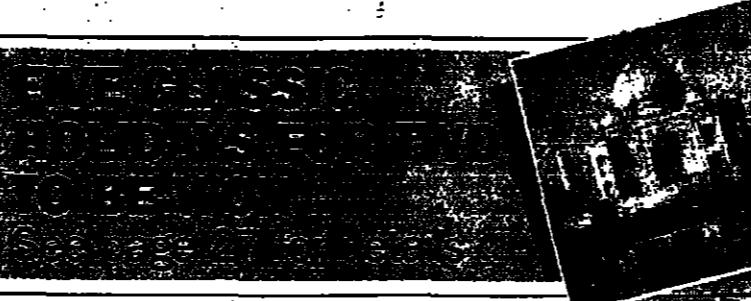




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SECTION TWO

SAFETY IN THE FOLK
Festivals are precious,
divorce - and losses of course

UMBERTO ECO
On ideas, writing
and food, lots of it

Shuttle diplomacy pays dividends as Clinton announces 60-day ceasefire

Bosnia deal gives hope of lasting peace

EMMA DALY
Zagreb
JOHN CARLIN
Washington

The best hope yet for an end to more than three years of war in Bosnia came yesterday with the announcement by President Bill Clinton of a nationwide 60-day ceasefire and plans for a peace conference agreed by the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

Mr Clinton warned that the accord was fragile, that mistrust still lingered and that the road to a lasting peace remained long. "The parties in Bosnia have agreed to a ceasefire to terminate all hostile military activities throughout the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina to become effective on 10 October if certain conditions are met," Mr Clinton said. "At the same time the governments of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia have agreed to proximity peace talks in the United States beginning about 25 October aimed at bringing them closer to a peace agreement." In the light of previous failures, Mr Clinton warned it was vital to "keep the pressure". "It matters what the parties do - not what they say," he said.

Although the most difficult issue - the division of land and political power, the details of a post-war constitution - must still be tackled, yesterday's agreement may mark the beginning of the end. "This is not peace, but this is undeniably a big step forward," Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy who clinched a deal after weeks of endless shuttle diplomacy, told reporters in Zagreb. "We're very pleased with where we are but daunted by the road ahead."

Repair gas and power lines. Bosnian Serb forces yesterday advanced to 1.5km (less than one mile) from government-held Kijic in northwest Bosnia and seized control of a major road linking it with Bihać.

Once the guns are quiet, the UN will have the task of monitoring the ceasefire, by patrolling front lines and reporting breaches. Nato, Mr Holbrooke was eager to emphasise, will not join the fray until "the peace agreement is in place".

However, Nato defence ministers were urgently shaping plans yesterday for the peace-keeping force the Alliance will despatch to the Balkans to police the final settlement. Hailing a "major step forward," the US Under-Secretary of Defense, Walter Slocombe, warned that it was critical that the ceasefire holds if a final deal is to be reached. He declined to predict when that might be, but the ministers' meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, have pencilled in late November as a likely date.

Mr Holbrooke said Alliance jets, which struck at three Bosnian Serb radar stations on Wednesday after the rebels locked on to Nato planes, would still patrol the skies to enforce earlier agreements, such as the "safe area" status of Sarajevo and Gorazde. Mr Holbrooke, who flew yesterday from Belgrade to Sarajevo to Zagreb, said the ceasefire talks had gone on late into Wednesday night over an open telephone line between the Serbian and Bosnian capitals. He paid an emotional tribute to three colleagues killed this summer en route for Sarajevo, reinforcing the impression of a wholly American effort.



Peace at last: Boys in Dobrinja celebrating the news of the ceasefire for Bosnia

Photograph: David Brauchi/AP

Seamus Heaney wins Nobel Prize

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Reporter

The world learnt of the long-awaited award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Seamus Heaney yesterday - with the exception of the Irish poet himself, who was walking in Greece.

His publishers, Faber and Faber, said through a harassed spokeswoman: "It's a case of him happening to us, because we don't know where he is. I suppose he might only find out about the prize from the newspapers."

Heaney, 50, was chosen as winner of the award, worth about £635,000, by the Swedish Academy, which praised his "works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past".

It is an honour that has been predicted for the past six years as the Catholic poet - who retired last year as Oxford Professor of Poetry - has inexorably grown in stature.

He will receive the cheque at a ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December, along with the laureates for the other prizes - Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Peace.

The son of a cattle-dealer, Heaney is regarded as the most important Irish poet since WB Yeats, who was also awarded literature's most prestigious prize in 1923. He is Ireland's fifth winner this century, following Joyce, Shaw and Beckett.

Mary Robinson, the Irish President, said Heaney had brought "great honour to Ireland". Matthew Evans, the chairman of Faber, said: "We are absolutely delighted and very moved by this recognition."

The 1992 Nobel winner, Derek Walcott, said: "As the guardian of Irish poetry, Seamus Heaney has, like his predecessor Yeats, received his just recognition." But Heaney's brother Hugh remained as down-to-earth as the poet is expected to be. "This award won't change him," he said.

Irish patriot, page 3

Blair seals the pact with BT chief

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Tony Blair and Sir Iain Vallance last night sealed Labour's information superhighway pact with British Telecom after Lord Tebbit, the former Tory chairman, forsook his party loyalties and went out of his way to praise the Labour Party leader.

Mr Blair and Sir Iain met privately in the leader's Brighton hotel suite to discuss the plan on a day of high political drama on which the intervention of Lord Tebbit, a non-executive director of BT, overshadowed a ferocious ministerial attack on Mr Blair led by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. As ministers continued to exonerate Mr Blair for allowing his announcement on Tuesday to be presented as a "deal" which no opposition party had the power to make, Lord Tebbit said that Mr Blair had "recognised the commercial needs of British Telecom" by agreeing the access

in return for free connection of schools, colleges, hospitals and libraries to the information superhighway.

Sir Iain last night issued only the terset of statements after his meeting with Mr Blair saying that while there was no deal

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there was an "understanding" between the Labour Party and Mr Lang said the two men had confirmed their "agreement" and that if Labour took power it would adopt the "unanimous recommendations" of the Commons Trade and Industry Select

committee. These would allow BT progressively to enter the cable entertainment market in competition with cable companies in the period up to a total lifting of market restrictions in the year 2002. He said the company would respond by "some acceleration" of its broadband investment programme - estimated at around £15bn - and by "offering in principle free connection to schools, hospitals, colleges and libraries." Sir Iain, who has been criticised by ministers who want him to reject the Labour proposal, left without answering reporters' questions.

A furious Mr Lang wrote to Mr Blair yesterday saying that Sir Iain had assured him personally that no "deal" had been done and warned that any move to allow BT to connect with existing cable companies would require a change in BT's licence conditions which would be a matter for the Director General of Communications. Adding that the Director General

would be obliged to hold public consultations, Mr Lang demanded: "What consideration have you given to this?"

Mr Lang said in his letter that many other telecommunications companies had entered the market in good faith "against the background of public undertakings, investing billions of pounds so that already almost a third of the households have had access to this service."

Their "exclusion" implicit in the "alleged deal" with BT would create a monopoly and he asked: "How can this be reconciled with the public interest?" After all the work is already being done to bring schools our hospitals and our universities.

But despite his open commerical interest in the offer to BT, Lord Tebbit went a long way yesterday to undermine the public relations impact of Mr Lang's onslaught. In Brighton to fulfil his duties as a Sky TV presenter and appear on BBC

Question Time, Lord Tebbit said that what Mr Blair had said was "just a matter of fact." He said: "Usually he gets it right about five to eight years after the Conservative Party does. On this occasion he seems to be slightly ahead."

The Brighton conference is the first in living memory in which the leadership has suffered no defeats by the delegates. Yesterday, as it was even suggested that the *Daily Mail* might swing behind Labour, the party passed another milestone when the conference ditched the last vestiges of its unilateralist nuclear defence policy.

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news

'Health risk' row over 48-hour week

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Ministers were yesterday accused of suppressing research which would undermine government court action against a key European directive on working hours.

The Department of Health yesterday admitted destroying copies of a government-financed study because of a single sentence which reported that working more than 48 hours a week doubles the risk of heart disease.

Howard resists attack on 'racist' Bill

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The Home Secretary was last night resisting pressure to retreat on the Asylum and Immigration Bill, after being warned by business leaders and a Cabinet minister that it was potentially racist.

Michael Howard was seeking to overcome the criticism by Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, that the plan to fine employers of illegal immigrants could lead to racial discrimination.

The strength of an attack by the British Chamber of Commerce last night intensified the pressure to shelf the Bill. Warning Labour would oppose the legislation, the Government was accused by Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, of "playing the race card".

Mr Howard had to postpone the publication of the Bill until the end of the month to resolve differences disclosed in a leaked Whitehall memorandum by Mrs Shephard.

Its fate will be decided by a meeting of the Cabinet EDH Committee, on economic, domestic and home affairs issues, chaired by Tony Newton, Leader of the House, after next week's Tory party conference.

Mr Howard has already watered down the proposals in the face of criticism from business, by dropping plans to require employers to carry out checks on immigrants. However, he is proposing legal sanctions against employers, which Mrs Shephard said would lead to companies being less ready to recruit ethnic minority staff.

Business leaders said they thought it had been abandoned, but the disclosure that a scaled-down Bill was still being prepared threatened fresh opposition from the Institute of Directors, the CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce.

Richard Brown, the deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said it could "give rise to allegations of racism", if employers were required to check on people they suspected of being illegal immigrants. He said the problem of illegal immigrants had never been raised by the chambers. "We really don't see it as being a crucial matter."

Whitehall sources said the objections raised by Mrs Shephard were "not insurmountable" and the proposed Bill could still go ahead. Mrs Shephard told Mr Howard in her memorandum she agreed in principle with deterring illegal working. But she wrote: "There is a danger that employers will concentrate checks on prospective employees whom they see as a risk, if not simply exclude them from consideration for the job."

Leading article, page 20

In December the European Court is due to hear a case brought by the Government that a Brussels directive aimed at limiting working time is not a health and safety issue and therefore Britain should not be forced to apply it.

Even if the Government loses the case, it has negotiated a six-year delay on the 1996 implementation date for the order. The study, by Professor Cary Cooper of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, which was due to be published on 4

September, refers to inquiries in Sweden and America which have supported the link between long hours and ill health.

The offending sentence says: "Research has shown that working more than 48 hours per week doubles the risk of coronary heart disease."

A spokesman for the Department of Health conceded the reason for putting the study, but pointed out there were other reports which showed that a link had not been proven. "We didn't like the bold and bald assertion in the report," said the

spokesman. Professor Malcolm Harrington, of Birmingham Institute of Occupational Health, stated in a paper published in the *British Medical Journal* on 18 June that there was "no unequivocal evidence" supporting the link.

The Department of Health spokesman said there had been an "oversight" in the production and presentation of the booklet which might give the impression that its findings represented the views of the Government. It was simply one contribu-

tion to the department's work on mental health in the workplace.

Professor Cooper, however, said it was clear that "long hours do not mean good health".

The MSF manufacturing union, to which the document was leaked, argues that the document, *Mental Health and Stress in the Workplace*, was suppressed because its publication would undermine the Government's case at the European Court. Roger Lyons, general secretary of MSF, yes-

terday called on Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, to issue the document, abandon the court case and implement the directive.

Mr Lyons claimed that 10,000 employees working more than 48 hours a week die each year from heart disease.

■ The Government yesterday introduced new regulations which mean that employers will not be forced to consult recognised unions over redundancies. Instead companies can elect to inform other non-union employees' representatives.

A European Court of Justice ruling given against the UK in 1994 criticised British law for restricting consultations to unions.

The Government also introduced rules which limit the obligation to consult employees only where there are 20 redundancies or more. The present regulations stipulate that there should be consultations over two or more job losses.

The Department of Trade and Industry estimated yesterday that it would remove the requirement to consult from some 96 per cent of businesses.

IN BRIEF

Burglary sparks massive explosion

Burglars caused a massive explosion yesterday destroying a firework company's premises in a former Second World War gun emplacement designed to withstand explosions.

The incident happened just before 2am at Sky High Pyrotechnics on a former airfield in Teynham, near Faversham, Kent. Persons went there in a stolen van and tried to attack the steel door with welding equipment. Inspector Mervyn Williams said: "We don't know if anyone was caught in [the explosion]... we're sifting through what looks like a comic book."

Helicopter deaths

A flying instructor and his student died when their Royal Navy helicopter hit a power cable and plunged into the River Wye at St Ane's, Gwent, during a training flight. The Gazelle from 705 Squadron, was flying from RAF Shawbury, near Chester, to the Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose, Cornwall.

Kegworth damages

A woman who was seriously injured and lost her three sisters in the Kegworth air disaster as they travelled to their father's death-bed has won £273,951 High Court damages. Margaret Kelly, of north London, developed post-traumatic stress disorder after the British Midland Airways Boeing 737-400 crashed into the embankment of the M1 in Leicestershire in 1989, killing 47 people.

Men's health focus

A campaign to fight men's ignorance about their health has been launched by the Health Education Council. It says men should examine their testicles for abnormalities - 1,500 new cases of testicular cancer are registered in Britain each year and the highest-risk age group is 30 to 40, but 95 per cent of tumours are curable if caught early.

A 19-year-old died from the incurable degenerative brain disorder this year, a case which the report notes is "exceptional, but not without precedent". Last week, a medical journal reported the death of a third dairy farmer from the disease.

The 1994 toll of 55 deaths represents the highest figure yet recorded in Britain since fears were first raised that mad cow disease - bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) - might be transmissible to people either by contact with infected animals or by eating their meat.

But Dr Rob Will, the country's leading expert on the incidence of CJD and one of the authors of the report, said yesterday that the rise might be more apparent than real. Cases which might have been overlooked in the past, may be showing up simply because greater efforts are being made to track them down and obtain a correct diagnosis.

Dr Will stressed that the reported incidence of the disease was increasing in other countries, ones which had little or no history of BSE among their cattle. "The incidence in the UK is comparable to France, the Netherlands and to a lesser extent Italy," he said.

He added that he was continuing to eat beef and sausages.

But Dr Will was surprised at a report in *The Lancet* last week highlighting a third case of CJD among dairy farmers. "The Lancet said it was a matter of concern and I agree with that," he said.

The report also notes that "it would be premature" to see the death of the 19-year-old as caused by BSE. "CJD has been described previously in two adolescents in the USA which is free of BSE and in one adolescent in France which was free of BSE at the time of the patient's clinical illness."

Statistically, venison-eaters proved more likely to develop the disease last year, but the report warns that the number of cases is so small that the statistics are unreliable. The link detected between regular veal eating and CJD in 1993 was not reported in 1994.

The figures are contained in the fourth annual report of the Edinburgh-based CJD Surveillance Unit, set up to study any changes in the pattern of the disease since the emergence of BSE.

There are no known cases of recovery from CJD.

'Human mad cow disease' deaths double

TOM WILKIE
Science Editor

Twice as many people died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) - thought to be the human equivalent of mad cow disease - in Britain last year, compared to 1985, according to a government report published yesterday.

A 19-year-old died from the incurable degenerative brain disorder this year, a case which the report notes is "exceptional, but not without precedent". Last week, a medical journal reported the death of a third dairy farmer from the disease.

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Death in focus: Rudolf Sauer's portrait of a Berlin mortuary reflects visitors to an exhibition called *The Dead* at the National Museum of Photography and Television, Bradford. The images on show examine the ways in which artists and photographers explore ideas of mortality. Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzelian

'Daily Mail' warms to new Labour

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

The tantalising prospect that Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday*, and *Evening Standard*, could support Labour in the next general election was floated publicly for the first time yesterday by Sir David English, the company's chairman.

Sir David reveals in the *Spectator* that the papers' proprietor, Lord Rothermere, acknowledged this week that an endorsement of Tony Blair was "not impossible". Lord Rothermere's remark followed a two-hour private meeting with the Labour leader. Sir David claims that Mr Blair had acknowledged in conver-

sation "what we [Associated] had been through" when "we talked about trade unions and what they had done to kill the newspaper industry", and adds: "He indicated quite clearly that, if in power, the position would not be restored to the point where we would have to face that again."

He describes a conversation about welfare in which Mr Blair made it clear that he shared the concern of the *Mail's* editor, Paul Dacre, about the welfare and social costs of single mothers.

In contrast to both the late John Smith and John Major - both of whom had offered an "almost identical... knee-jerk, politically correct dismissal of this subject" in similar conver-

sations, Mr Blair has said, "something about how the present unionist, growing acceptance of the situation was... betraying a generation of children".

Mr Blair had told Associated executives: "you may find I am the only one who has the will" to reform the welfare state. Sir David says a "thoughtful silence ensued" among colleagues after this remark.

Sir David says that "we are not without scepticism towards the present government" and adds: "We feel we must continue our dialogue with Tony Blair to the point where we can accurately reflect our opinion of him come the election, whether to attack him, remain neutral or even endorse him."



Sir David English: lunches

Press barons enticed by charm offensive

One day the Murdoch press is hailing Tony Blair as the greatest visionary since John F Kennedy, the next chairman of that other bastion of 'Tory support', Associated Newspapers, teasingly holds out the prospect of backing the Labour leader at the general election.

Never mind the aspirin, Tory spin doctors are reaching for the carving knife and beginning to size up their wrist.

While Sir David English's musings in this week's *Spectator* fall well short of a commitment to back Labour, they are an intriguing subtext to the right-wing press's general warming to Mr Blair.

The apparent love affair between Rupert Murdoch and Mr Blair began last year with dinner in London, continued with an invitation to the Labour leader to address a conference hosted by the tycoon on a Pacific island, and approached consummation this week.

On Wednesday the *Sun* hailed Mr Blair's Brighton speech as "the most remarkable ever made to a Labour conference". Today called it an escape from the "sterile and barren wasteland" of politics under

leadership contest. On Wednesday, it rhapsodised over Mr Blair's "inspirational" conference speech: "The Tories have in him an opponent to be taken seriously. Silly vituperation will not do: they have to come up to his standard of seriousness and intellectual weight."

The *Daily Mail* has been a stormtrooper for the right, concluding after the ditching of Clause Four that "the Labour leopard has not changed its spots". After Mr Blair's home truth speech to the TUC last month, the paper had mellowed but still felt Mr Blair was "long on emotional commitment and short on detail".

Then came Brighton. The *Daily Mail* wondered how Mr Blair would fund his vision and whether a Labour government could balance the books. But the admiration was evident.

"His conference speech was a tour de force, brilliantly pitched to heal the divisions within his own party while speaking to the heart of the nation as a whole," it reported.

When Mr Blair returns from Brighton, perhaps there will be a more daring invitation to dinner on his doormat, franked Associated Newspapers.

RHYS WILLIAMS
Media Correspondent

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Anatomy of a policy: Tony Blair's agreement with BT shows how he saw a political opportunity and seized the initiative

Superhighway deal irresistible to Labour

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

The remarkable arrival of Lord Tebbit and Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, in Brighton yesterday to defend Tony Blair's agreement with BT from Tory attack, brought to a fresh and hugely public climax a policy process which, until this week, had attracted little attention but which has been long in the making.

It was last October that Tony Blair - who has his own E-mail address, and whose computer-literate wife Cherie is fully Internet-friendly, asked Chris Smith, the shadow Heritage Secretary, to make the development of policy on the information superhighway his central priority for the year.

The Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, chaired by Labour's Richard Caborn but Tory-dominated, had in the late summer of 1994 already recommended the gradual relaxation of restrictions on BT's access to the cable enter-

tainment business between 1998 and 2002.

The company insists this is necessary to secure an adequate return for the £15bn investment needed to finance the right mix of fibre optic, radio link and modernised networks of copper cable to put the whole of Britain on line.

This sort of infrastructure would allow a schoolchild in Falkirk to tap into the Science Museum's database in London or a doctor to take a instant second opinion from a consultant by showing him an X-ray while his patient is still in his surgery.

The Government rejected the recommendation outright though there were uncorroborated suggestions in Westminster yesterday that Mr Heseltine would have liked to adopt the proposals but was advised by two senior officials in the DTI's telecommunications division that this was impossible, given the commitments made to the cable companies.

But well before then Mr Blair had been talking to media



Tony Blair (left) and Sir Iain Vallance, who sealed the Labour Party deal with British Telecom, and Michael Heseltine, who had wanted to relax restrictions to the cable network

heavyweights about the implications of the superhighway. Indeed it was that subject over which Mr Blair's relationship with Rupert Murdoch, international media tycoon, began to warm. In July, Mr Blair was a keynote speaker at Mr Murdoch's international conference for his senior staff, held at the

luxurious Hayman Island resort, off the coast of Queensland.

Chris Smith, who was anything but a computer expert when Mr Blair's summons came, but is now widely respected in the industry as a very fast learner, travelled to the US, met Vice President Al Gore's information technology experts,

talked to Department of Commerce officials and went to Stamford University and California's "Smart valley" to bring himself up to date with the information revolution.

Mr Smith set up a policy forum not only of front benchers and Labour MPs but a number of outside consultants, ranging

from Sir David Puttnam to Logica's Philip Hughes. Professor Steve Hepple of Anglia Polytechnic's UltraLab, Sir John Daniel of the Open University and James Purnell, information expert at the left of centre Institute of Public Policy Research, an Islington Labour councillor and one of Mr Blair's key advisers on the issue.

And by February, when Tony Blair met Sir Iain to hear his pitch on behalf of the Select Committee report, Mr Smith was already floating the idea in speeches that the Government would need some form of social return for relaxing the restrictions.

That idea - which was virtually the only aspect of the policy announced on Tuesday which did not crop up in the Select Committee Report - eventually bore fruit in the BT offer to connect every school, college, hospital and library for free.

By the time Mr Blair travelled to Hayman Island in July the policy of agreeing to lift the restrictions on BT, Mercury and other potential telephone com-

panies in return for free interconnection of public institutions was already complete. But it may have been Mr Blair's trip to Australia that finally persuaded of him of the political profit such a policy could be given.

For as Mr Blair chatted with the Australian premier in one of their adjoining suites overlooking the hexagonal pool, Mr Blair remarked that he had to return home to make a speech to the information superhighway conference. Mr Smith had convened for July 18.

And by all accounts, Paul Keating, who also has an agenda of connecting up every public building, was lyrical about the political implications of the superhighway. Immediately, Mr Keating who, even more than Tony Blair, has never made any secret of his admiration for the political drive of Margaret Thatcher, had an imposing dossier of speeches and documents faxed down from Canberra and communicated his enthusiasm to Mr Blair.

It was not long after Mr Smith's conference at the Queen Elizabeth II centre in Westminster that discreet contact was made between Mr Blair's office and BT, and the basis for the proposal, which Mr Blair announced on Tuesday was put to Sir Iain. Highly secret negotiations were carried out by Alan Rudge, BT's deputy chairman and Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, who worked closely with Geoff Norris, the industry and education adviser in Mr Blair's office.

After the summer holiday, the negotiations fell into place with remarkable speed. Copies of Mr Blair's speech drafts passed between his office - and later his suite in Brighton's Metropole Hotel - to BT in London, and according to one account, to some of the senior BT executives gathered, ironically, along Ian Taylor, the DTI Telecommunications Minister, at an international telecommunications conference in Geneva. By Tuesday the text was agreed and the deal done.

Heaney, an Irish patriot who scaled the world's peak

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Reporter

Seamus Heaney has risen to literature's Olympian heights from the simplest of beginnings - a small farm called Mossbawn in Co Londonderry where he was born the eldest of nine children in 1939.

He was brought up a Catholic on the farm sprawled on the long, flat road between Toomebridge in Co Antrim - famous for eels and the hanging of the Catholic republican patriot Roddy MacCorley - and Castle Dawson in Co Londonderry, a Protestant loyalist town. There he learned to avoid Protestant boys attempting to run him over with their bicycles.

One of Heaney's earliest memories is of his father, a cattle dealer, nearly drowning because his horse reared up and overturned his cart on a riverbank. But it was this rural childhood which shaped Heaney's languorous early poetry, with its sensuous evocations of blackberry picking, milk churning, thatching and threshing.

He was educated at St Columb's College, Londonderry, then at Queen's College, Belfast, where he was a brilliant scholar. He longed to be a full-time poet but elected to lecture there initially because of distrust of his ability. It was in the 1960s that the poet began to emerge. Heaney became part of a group in Belfast who, he recalled, "used to talk poetry day after day with an intensity and prejudice that cannot but have left a mark on all of us".

In 1966 he published his first major collection of poetry, which arrived on the literary

landscape like a thunderclap. Later, during the Troubles, he described the atmosphere in which he and the other Belfast poets worked as a reality of "explosions, road blocks and rhetoric" which made writers feel "socially called upon" and "answerable". He has never lost sight of this Irishness. "Be advised my passport's green. No glass of ours was ever raised to toast the Queen," he warned the editors of the *Penguin Anthology of British Poetry* when they included his work in the collection.

With the publication of each successive collection of poetry from the early *Death of a Naturalist* to *Seeing Things* of 1991, Heaney's reputation has grown until he is now considered the major poet in the English speaking world.

With fame has come responsibility and possessions. Heaney, his wife Marie and his children move between a battered family house in Dublin, a country cottage at Glannmore, 50 miles from the city, and a flat at Harvard (where he is Boylston Professor). Until last year he was also Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, and his life is one of a globe-trotter for much of the year until he can retire to phone-less cottage at Glannmore and write.

He says he was first inspired by the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, was "Eloited" at university and admires Emily Dickinson and Ted Hughes. A poem 11 years ago spoke of the vulgarity of the artist "expecting ever gratitude or admiration, which would mean a stealing from him". If that is so, then the Nobel award is the greatest theft of all.



Literary benchmark: Seamus Heaney's award recognises him as the major modern English language poet

Photograph: Eamon Farrell/Photocall

Nobel Literature
Prizewinners since
1980

1995: Seamus Heaney
(Ireland)
1994: Kenzaburo Oe (Japan)
1993: Toni Morrison (United States)
1992: Derek Walcott (Trinidad)
1991: Nadine Gordimer (South Africa)
1990: Octavio Paz (Mexico)
1989: Camilo Jose Cela (Spain)
1988: Naguib Mahfouz (Egypt)
1987: Joseph Brodsky (US)
1986: Wole Soyinka (Nigeria)
1985: Claude Simon (France)
1984: Jaroslav Seifert (Czechoslovakia)
1983: William Golding (UK)
1982: Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia)
1981: Elias Canetti (Germany)
1980: Czeslaw Milosz (USA)

John Walsh on the rise and rise of the Derry-born bard

completeness: his skill as a user of language wedded to the delicacy of his epiphanies and the subtlety of his critical insights. His poetry has always been characterised by dense syllabic lines, thick-textured as the turf of Mossbawn, his family home. From evoking the sights and smells and threats of rural life - the churning-day crocks, the fix-dam invaded by army of bolted frogs - he moved on to consider the roots of violence in his native Ulster.

His most daring mythopoetic stroke dates from these years when he drew an explicit connection between Provo and UVF murders and the ancient

tribal rituals of Scandinavia, the medieval sacrificial rites of the Tollund Men: "Out there in Jutland," he wrote, "in the old man-killing parishes, I will feel lost/Unhappy and at home". It was an act of perfect imaginative sympathy.

After *North*, Heaney's role as an essentially public writer was established. He became a kind of ambassador of poetry the global lecture circuit. His work began to consider the language that is shared but fought over by English and Irish, the huge symbolic properties contained in a verb or an oyster - "the frond-lipped, brine-sung gulf/privilege". Though his language

never lost its guarded and knotted music, or its magical precision, his concerns became increasingly rarefied in *The Haw Lantern* and *Station Island*, his imagination seemed to turn inward. But in *Clearances*, a sequence of sonnets to his late mother and in his most recent collection, *Seeing Things*, he returned spectacularly to form through his own past, and writing of the "space that was enrichingly cleared in his life by death, and the intimations of the luminous that wake the everyday world into sudden light and transform it as his own poetry transformed mud and stones into statement. He is an

exhilarating man to meet, the narrow slits of his eyes (in that vast battlement of a head) constantly creased with laughter, his huge ploughman's grip dwarfing one's critical fingers.

He will argue enthusiastically with star-struck students about critical theory, extempore risky literary formulations (speaking of someone's attempt to represent Wilde as a killer saint); he once told me, "Sweeney goes right in under the nail; Wilde just glides along the top of it" then escape to hear his friend David Hammond play *Sink Her in the Lowland Sea* on a battered folk guitar. He is a literary hero sans pareil in a world where heroes are few. Hail off gentlemen, indeed.

DAILY POEM

The Haw Lantern

By Seamus Heaney

*The wintry haw is burning out of season,
crab of the thorn, a small light for small people,
wanting no more from them but that they keep
the wick of self-respect from dying out,
not having to blind them with illumination.*

*But sometimes when your breath plumes in the frost
it takes the roaming shape of Diogenes
with his lantern, seeking one just man;
so you end up scrutinised from behind the haw
he holds up at eye-level on its twig,
and you jinch before his banded palm and stone,
its blood-prick that you wish would test and clear you,
its pecked-at ripeness that scans you, then moves on.*

This poem is the title poem of *The Haw Lantern*, published by Faber in 1987. A new collection will be published in the spring.

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From scampi in the basket to rooks baked in a pie

James Cusick reports on radical changes to the British pub

Where once scampi in a basket ruled supreme, there is now rook pie or ostrich medallions. Where once an order for a glass of chardonnay brought silence or gales of derision, there are now glimmers of hope. Britain's pubs are apparently reaching maturity.

The leading annual guide to the houses of ale and atmosphere, *The Good Pub Guide*, published yesterday to claims that pub food, pub architecture and pub prices may be going through something of a renaissance. The *Guide's* editor, Alasdair Aird, writes that "the wine tide has finally turned", and claims that prices have gone up only a whisker above inflation.

The Guide also claims that food is dominating the quiet revolution inside Britain's public houses and that choosing the Dining Pub of the Year "has been the most difficult ever".

Having discovered the microwave and the freezer in the 1980s, it was not unusual, according to Mr Aird, to see pub menus with between 50 and 100 dishes. The growing uniformity of brewery-owned pubs hastened what the traditionalists believed was an end to individualism in pubs. No more.

"Character is making its comeback," Mr Aird said. His list of "unlikely ingredients" in this year's *Guide* includes offal, organic produce and a large Thai influence.

Wendy Hibbard runs and cooks in The Sun at Winfordon in Herefordshire and for six weeks during the spring months

The Sun's menu includes Rook Pie (£7.50). "The rooks," she says, "come from one of my contacts. Only the rook breasts are used and the taste is somewhere between grouse and pigeon."

Tourists who flock to Herefordshire for the experience of the unusual pie expect beats to be peeking out over the pastry crust, but she says: "they are dis-



New taste: Rook pie is like 'pigeon or grouse'

appointed there are none".

This week in *The Sun*, with rooks out of season, it was venison braised in sloe gin and brandy and Greek "stifado", which is beef in red wine.

The Lion and Unicorn in Thornhill, Central Scotland, has no blackbirds but instead they have a fast-running variety.

Their menu includes ostrich medallions in a Madeira source

(£5.50), happily rubbing shoulders with wild boar in apple gravy.

The trend towards individualism is highlighted in the quiet coastal town of Faversham in Kent where a French chef, Patrick Coevoet, and his wife, Josephine, have brought gastronomic sophistication to a once delapidated pub.

With moored yachts outside and nautical paraphernalia inside, the Albion, with its blackboard menu of Anglo-French dishes, indicates an educated clientele.

Their first appearance in the *Guide* means Patrick's and Josephine's belief that people now want first-class food in a relaxed pub atmosphere has been proved. Patrick said: "I came here from Hazebrouck, near Lille, nearly 10 years ago. Initially I worked in a French restaurant. Now I prefer the pub. We don't have starched or stiff waiters hanging around. The atmosphere is relaxed. The food? It must be good; we are booked out most weekends."

Mr Aird believes Britain's pubs may be in a "vintage year" but adds: "We don't want to believe it will all be downhill from here. It won't be."

The 1996 Pub of the Year – the Queen's Head, Troutbeck, Cumbria.

Own Brew Pub of the Year – The Cavendish Arms, Cartmel, Cumbria.

Town Pub of the Year – White Locks, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Family Pub of the Year – The Wight Mice, Isle of Wight.

Dining Pub of the Year – The Cholmley Arms, near Bickley Moss, Cheshire.



New entry: The Albion pub in Faversham, Kent, which appears in the annual 'The Good Pub Guide', published yesterday. Photograph: Brian Harris

Police chief hits out over teenage crime

JONATHAN FOSTER

The leader of a teenaged gang responsible for 445 offences since April has been placed in custody after Nottinghamshire police and social workers spent nearly a year trying to stem a wave of theft and vandalism.

Seven boys, now aged between 12 and 15, have operated as a gang, based since November in a social services home in Mansfield.

The boys have been arrested 419 times, but a shortage of secure accommodation and government guidelines on treatment of children in care have combined to leave them free to resume offending.

Superintendent Alan Capps, commander of Mansfield police division, yesterday told the police authority that "revolving door justice" had brought "untold pain to the community" and danger to his officers.

"On many occasions, my officers have detained the juvenile

offenders prior to committing crime, and taken them back to the children's home," Supt Capps said. "They take them to the front door and, because social services are not empowered to physically detain the offenders in children's homes, forbade the children run out of the back door and go on further criminal rampage."

In one such 12-hour period members of the gang committed 14 separate serious offences of burglary, car theft and illegal drug possession.

The boys knew they were unlikely to be locked up by the courts until they reached their 15th birthdays. They often drove dangerously in stolen cars, laughing at police efforts to stop them, Supt Capps said.

Gwyn Griffith, assistant director of Nottinghamshire social services, said recidivist juvenile crime was becoming common across Britain. Some social workers now despair of turning children away from crime, and saw their role in

creasingly as one of restraint. Gang members were in care because of their criminal behaviour or truancy, Mr Griffith said. Two had spent terms in secure accommodation but rules in children's homes forbade physical force unless a young person was in imminent danger.

Department of Health guidelines need changing so that staff can physically restrain kids from leaving the building.

But he said social workers were reluctant to change the regime in homes substantially because of abuse endured by children subjected to "pin-down" methods in homes in Staffordshire.

Only when a child under 15 persistently offends, or commits a serious crime, can magistrates send him into custody.

Last week, the gang ring-leader burgled and set fire to a clothes shop causing damage estimated at £9,000. Magistrates agreed to send him to a secure unit, but it took four days before social workers found a va-



Supt Capps: 'This is not a political statement'

cant place at a centre in Leeds.

Supt Capps said: "This is not a political statement, it is a message to highlight the impact that juvenile crime has on the community and the workload faced by investigating officers."

"I accept that many people have stated that imprisonment does not reform offenders, but imprisonment does give respite to the victims of crime, and I am faced in Mansfield with many shopkeepers whose insurance companies will now not provide them with cover because of the number of claims being made."

Mother 'wanted to kill children'

A mother accused of fatally poisoning one daughter and attacking another, who died years later of brain damage, had twice threatened to kill her children, a jury heard yesterday.

Tommy Butler, the former husband of Celia Beckett, 34, sobbed as he told Nottingham Crown Court of her "violent" nature.

Ms Beckett is accused of poisoning her daughter Tracey, four, who died in 1986 from an overdose of an anti-depressant, amitriptyline, which was prescribed to Ms Beckett and which she is alleged to have fed to the child. The cause of death

was originally given as bronchitis but detectives applied to have the body exhumed last January.

Ms Beckett, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, is also charged with causing grievous bodily harm to another daughter Clare, who suffered a serious brain injury in 1984 when four months old. Clare died in 1991 in a home for the severely mentally handicapped.

She is further charged with poisoning and cruelty to a third daughter, Debbie, six, between 1989 and 1992.

Mr Butler, 41, said he was distraught at the death of his two children. He told the court that

Ms Beckett twice threatened to kill the children. "Celia said to me in confidence she couldn't stand seeing Tracey and Clare suffer and she wanted to give them some drugs to put them to sleep," he said.

Oliver Blunt QC, for the defence, rejected the claims, saying Mr Butler had not told the police about the threats but had invented them. He said Mr Butler had sold photographs of his daughters to a national newspaper and had tried to sell a book about the case.

Mr Butler admitted he had recently applied to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for compensation for the death of his two children. Earlier, the court was told that Ms Beckett had blamed Mr Butler for causing the brain injury to Clare.

David Holmes, who became Ms Beckett's boyfriend in 1986, said: "Celia told me 'Tommy Butler had caused the injury'." However, Mr Holmes described his anger at how Ms Beckett treated Tracey. He said she ignored her after the child had suffered a serious overdose, just three weeks before she died from a second, similar overdose in September 1986.

The trial continues today.

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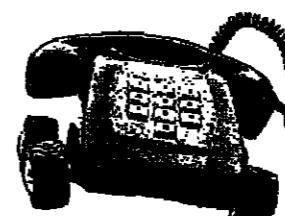
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LABOUR IN BRIGHTON

Blair victory in keeping Trident

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Tony Blair secured the unequivocal support of the Labour conference for his defence policy yesterday, as delegates voted decisively not to scrap the Trident nuclear missile system.

The vote, by 55.8 per cent to 44.2 per cent, reverses last year's traditional embarrassment and removes the last vestige of unilateralism from Labour policy after 15 years.

Combined with votes against a motion to end government support for the arms trade, and

another resolving not to debate calls for cuts in defence spending, the results were hailed by Mr Blair as a further significant endorsement of "new Labour".

"This vote shows a new maturity in the party's attitude to defence. At this conference, on issue after issue, we have seen a party, united, sensible, and determined to build the new Britain we want to create," he said.

The Labour Party abandoned unilateralism under Neil Kinnock in 1989, when a policy review document was approved by conference. But

conference has consistently faced both ways, by also passing motions to scrap Trident or cut defence spending.

In yesterday's debate, John Reid, Labour defence spokesman, described the anti-Trident motion a "pious slogan". He said: "I understand the sentiment attached to it. But it is wrong because it is one-sided disarmament."

Gill Collins (Orpington), moving the motion, said: "Trident is a massive, costly white elephant that should soon be with the dinosaurs." But Lee Vasey (Darlington) warned:

"The world remains a dangerous place, as Bosnia has shown us. We must ensure that our defence forces have the necessary resources and equipment."

Brian Godsell, of the AEU engineering union, told delegates: "Defence has been the Achilles' heel of the Labour Party for too long. Now's the time to turn defence into attack."

Joan Lester, the left-wing MP put up by the National Executive to reply to the debate, warned the motion could be "misinterpreted at a time when there are enormous opportunities for negotiated reductions

in nuclear arms worldwide".

Last year's motion to scrap Trident was carried by 54 per cent to 46 per cent. The shopworkers' union, Usdaw, with 5 per cent of the vote, which voted to scrap Trident last year, this year changed its position to support the leadership. But there also appears to have been a substantial shift in opinion among local party delegates.

Unison, the GMB and the engineers voted against the motion, the Transport and General Workers' Union, MSF and Communication Workers voted to scrap Trident.

Janet Bloomfield, chairwoman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, described the vote as "Tony Blair's first blank cheque policy commitment – the true costs of Trident are uncertain and forever escalating". She said that it "runs against the grain of public opinion".

Another motion – opposed by the National Executive because of the effect it would have on jobs – calling on a Labour government to end financial support for arms exports through government agencies, was defeated on a show of hands.

The essence of acquiescence



JIM WHITE

Anyone doubting how much the Labour Party has really changed should have been in the Brighton conference centre yesterday afternoon. All week, decisions by the new model leadership that would have provoked rioting in the aisles five years ago have been applauded cheerfully by delegates.

Deals with privatised megacorps boasting bald former cabinet ministers on their boards? Fine by them. Preserve grant-maintained schools of the sort that the leader's son attends? Good idea. Keep Trident? Yo, Tony. And yesterday, Jack Straw, the man who dared to rant in the most incorrect of political ways about "winos, beggars and squeegee merchants" was allowed to make a 20-minute speech on getting tough on crime without once being interrupted by a lengthy point of order from the Amalgamated Union of Windscreen Cleaning Operatives. This spirit of acquiescence may, of course, have been the result of delegates being exhausted by the pace of it all. Straw's speech came at the end of a marathon charge through the agenda, in which 10 subjects and 80 resolutions were discussed in just over two hours. Orders and composites piled up on each other with barely time to breathe in between.

Moreover, the conference schedule seems to have been constructed by the computer which wrote Railtrack's new timetable. Just as you were expecting to climb aboard a debate on crime, along came one on local government. "This is a heck of an afternoon," said chairperson Clare Short at one stage. "Now let's move on to Northern Ireland." It was instructive throughout this gallop to watch the big guns on the platform. When, for instance, a woman wearing a green lapel ribbon took to the rostrum and started talking a bit like Gerry Adams's press officer, they were faced with a dilemma. Snort in derision and the cameras banked in front of them would snap up the evidence of

So Jack Straw, for instance, appeared totally neutral whenever he disagreed with a speaker: poring over his papers, or having a quiet word in Clare Short's ear about procedure. Tony Blair is the master of this method of giving nothing away on the platform. While his deputy John Prescott wraps his huge fists around his chin as he sits and listens, the back of his jacket rising up round his jowls, Blair spends his entire time aware of the photo opportunity; aware, perhaps, of what was made of that picture of John Major with his head in his hands at a dinner.

Thus, as others speak, Blair sits so erect it appears he has left the coat-hanger in the back of his jacket, hand movements rationed to the point of extinction. Except when someone says something he agrees with, and then they move into action as he claps ostentatiously. He was doing that more than ever at the end of Straw's stirring call for "swift and tough action to be taken against criminal and anti-social vagrants". In truth, Blair's appreciation of his own personal Rottweiler was significantly more enthusiastic than the delegates, who prefer their speakers to stick to one main resolution: "tough on Tories, tough on the causes of Tories."

Meanwhile the Amalgamated Union of Windscreen Cleaning Operatives had, like Arthur Scargill earlier in the week, voted with their feet. And were hard at work by the traffic lights at the top of West Street.

Party
reference
in reform
Community

John Rentoul looks at the 'young fixers' whose behind-the-scenes manoeuvres secured platform success

Vote-winners in the background

Despite the muttering about how out-of-touch the leader's office is, how the "inner sanctum" does not understand the Labour Party, this week's unseen conference fixers have secured a remarkable unbroken series of successful votes – the first time the platform has not suffered defeat on a single vote.

Tony Blair insists that the relationship between leadership and membership has changed – gone are the days when the conference ritually passed defiant resolutions which the National Executive ignored.

The planning for this week's conference started in January, and more recently Mr Blair himself and David Blunkett, his education spokesman, have met hundreds of local party delegates. At party rallies last month in Dudley, West Midlands, and Crawley, West Sussex, local delegates were called in afterwards to chat to the leader.

But in Brighton, the vital work of lobbying delegates and collecting information was carried out by a team of young fixers, who keep themselves out of the limelight, including:

■ Jon Cruddas, 33, chief assistant to Tom Sawyer, party general secretary. He once wrote a

doctoral thesis on the analytical basis of historical materialism, but more recently was a key figure in the arm-twisting operation which delivered the result on one member, one vote for John Smith at the 1993 Labour conference.

■ Pat McFadden, 30, a policy adviser in the leader's office. One of only two staff inherited from John Smith, he was responsible with Dr Cruddes for canvassing the trade unions.

■ Sally Morgan, in the leader's office, responsible for liaison with the party organisation.

She proved her worth in the 1992 election campaign, when she organised the effort in marginal seats which delivered a higher swing to Labour than in safe seats. She is the vital link with the NEC.

■ Phil Wilson, 36, one of Mr Blair's closest allies in his Sedgefield constituency, the enthusiast for the mass membership party there, who has a brief to carry the recruitment gospel all over the country.

■ Margaret McDonagh, who has replaced Ms Morgan as "key seats co-ordinator" at Labour HQ. This week she was drafted in to help Mr Wilson persuade constituency delegates.



Persuasive touch: Margaret McDonagh (left) was drafted in to help woo constituency delegates. Photograph: John Voss

Their greatest triumph was the defeat yesterday of the call to scrap Trident – although one source stressed they were not engaged in bullying: "We can't persuade people unless they want to be persuaded."

By contrast with the rigorous organisation of the party ma-

chine, the left failed to marshal its forces. On the one issue on which the leadership could have been defeated, the annual call to cut defence spending to the West European average level, three local parties failed to "composite" their similar motions. While a composite motion

would have been debated, as single motions they fell.

The fixers' only real failure came at the start of the week when the leadership was forced to accept a motion which committed it to renationalising the railways – which Mr Blair has since been trying to "interpret"

away. And they were embarrassed when party officials were forced yesterday to correct the published results of a vote taken on Tuesday. The vote, the most important of 25 rulebook revisions, gives the leadership the power to call ballots of party membership on policy issues.

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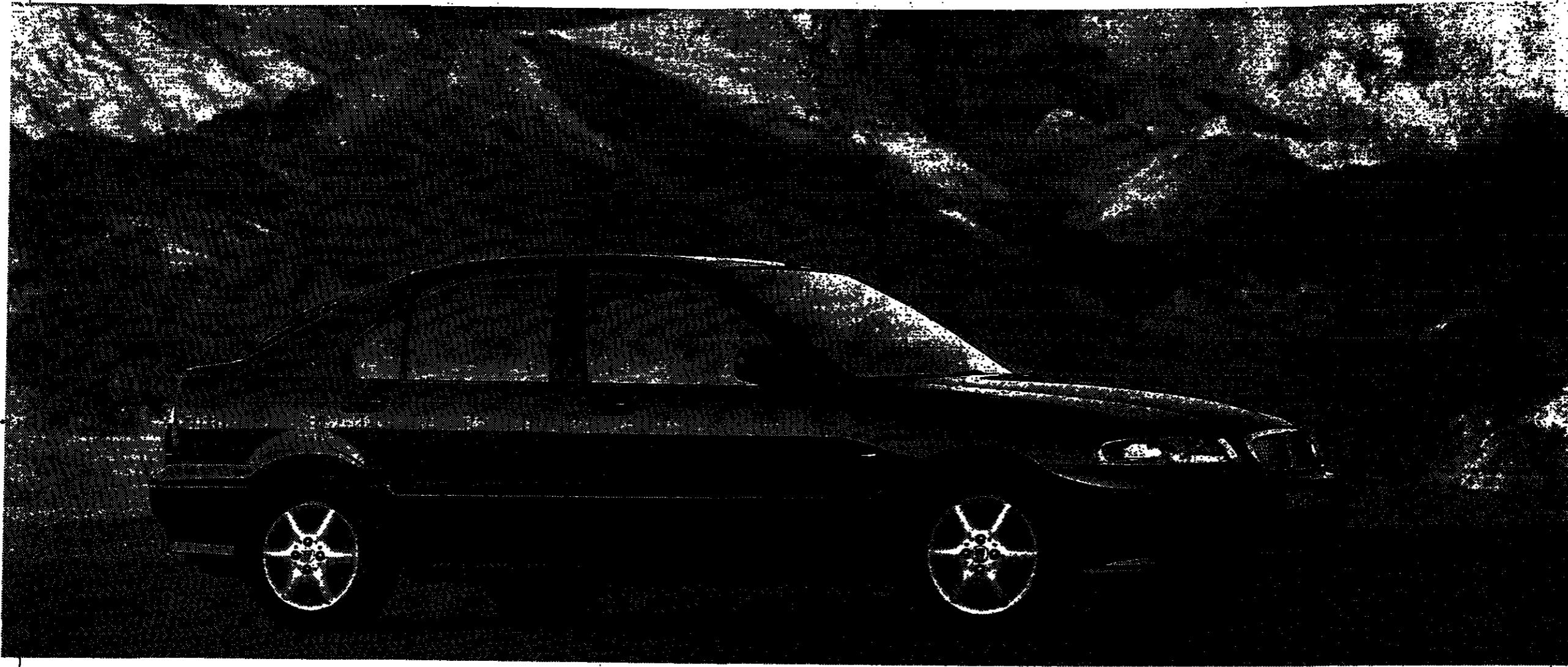


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Big catch: A fish caught off Scotland, which fisheries experts have identified as a primitive saifin roughshark. Scientists were called in after it was discovered by a Grimsby fishmonger. It measures 2ft 6ins and its large eyes and nostrils enable live at depths of up to 720m below sea level, the experts say

Photograph: James Wright

Briton in murder trial to face new evidence

VIJAY JOSHI
Associated Press

Lawyers defending a British fugitive linked to a string of murders across the world suggested yesterday that Singapore police may have botched an investigation into the killing and dismembering of the South African he has confessed to bludgeoning.

Lawyers for John Martin Scripps also said they might object to new evidence the prosecution wants to produce on Monday, apparently from Thailand, where Scripps is charged with a double murder.

Scripps, 35, is convicted drug trafficker and has also been linked to the murder of a British tourist in Cancun, Mexico.

In the Singapore High Court on Wednesday, Scripps admitted killing Gerard Lowe, an engineer from Johannesburg.

But his confession does not explain how Lowe's headless torso, legs and thighs were found floating in Singapore harbour, packed in black plastic bags.

Scripps claims he battered Lowe with a camping hammer when Lowe made homosexual advances while they were sharing a hotel room on 8 March. He says Lowe fell on the carpet and bled from the head.

But police witnesses have said there was no trace of blood on the carpet, but only in the bathroom, suggesting that the murder was premeditated.

Barnardo's book is one to remember

LIZ SEARL

A book to help terminally ill parents keep a memory bank of happy family life for their children was launched by the charity Barnardo's yesterday.

The "memory book" targets men and women affected by HIV and Aids, and will explain how to keep a library of memories for children and partners to look back on.

The idea follows a Barnardo's report in June which estimated that by 1997, 4,000 young children will have a mother who has tested positive for HIV.

Barnardo's workers had already experienced the worries of parents who did not want their children to remember them solely by the pain and suffering caused by their illness. They believe the new book will offer them peace of mind.

"Not only do children find it

helpful to have these memories, it can be a relief for the parents, because it is fun to do, and they know that they will never be forgotten," said Lisa Stacey, a Barnardo's spokeswoman. "The book tells them how to use as many methods as possible, including photographs, scrapbooks, and videos, to record events and feelings."

The charity, which held a conference on bereavement services for children in London yesterday, also launched a children's storybook, *Selina's Story*, about a young girl who tries to cope with her mother's illness. The book is aimed at 4- to 8-year-olds who, it is hoped, will be able to identify with Selina.

"When you have worked with children who are coming up to a stressful part of the illness, you see that it can be very helpful because they feel extremely isolated," said Ms Stacey.

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London drivers facing wave of breath tests

All drivers involved in accidents attended by police will be breath-tested in a new crackdown on drink-driving, the Metropolitan Police said yesterday.

The policy, which came into effect yesterday, is being introduced after a sharp increase in the number of positive breath tests recorded in London.

Assistant Commissioner Paul Manning, responsible for traffic policy, said: "Although most people are responsible and don't drink and drive, there's still a hard core of motorists who flout the law and put innocent people's lives at risk. Our message is quite clear - if you have the slightest accident you are liable to be breath-tested."

A pilot scheme has been operating in south-east London since the beginning of the year. Officers will continue to exercise their discretion in cases where drivers are injured.

An extra 200 breathalyser kits

have been issued to traffic garages and police stations throughout London to put the new policy into practice.

Similar policies have already been adopted by several other forces.

Mr Manning revealed that positive tests in the Metropolitan Police area rose from 8,840 in 1993 to 11,251 in 1994. In the first six months of this year there were 8,057 positive tests.

So far this year around 15 per cent of those asked to undergo tests had either failed, refused, or been unable to provide one. That compares with 9 per cent last year and 8 per cent in 1993.

Mr Manning said the reasons for the rise were not entirely understood, but it was probable that it reflected both better targeting of offenders by police and changing drinking habits associated with the introduction of all day opening.



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CEASEFIRE IN BOSNIA

Will the deal lead to political settlement

The US needs an end to the fighting, but it may be beyond even their powers argues **Michael Sheridan**

The most significant fact about yesterday's announcement of a ceasefire in Bosnia was that it came from President Bill Clinton.

The United States is now locked into a timetable of aspirations that it hopes will yield a settlement of the Yugoslav conflict. Presidential prestige, American weight in the Atlantic Alliance and US military force are now all harnessed to the chariot of Richard Holbrooke's peace initiative.

The US envoy, backed easily by the Western allies and supported unhappily by the Russians, therefore stands a greater chance of pulling off a peace deal than did any of his predecessors.

With luck, he will produce for Mr Clinton a piece of paper that could remove Bosnia from the foreign policy crisis list by year's end. But will the timetable work? And, if it does, will the result ensure a political settlement or will it simply install an

armed peace - Munich to the Bosnians and Versailles to the Serbs?

"This is not peace," said Marshal Foch of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, "it is an armistice for 20 years."

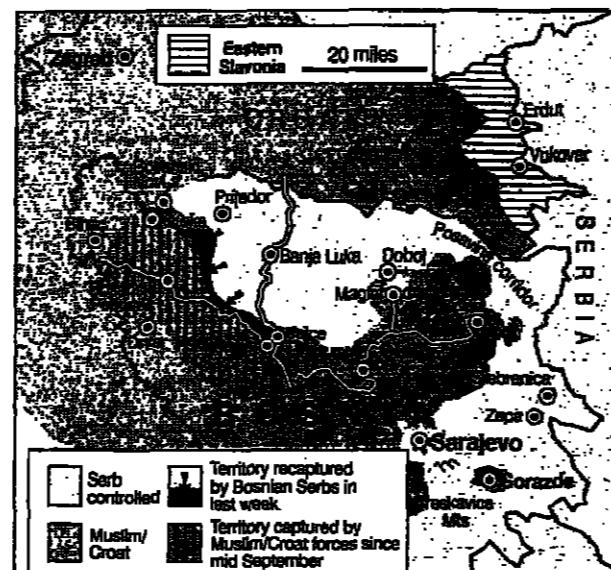
We can expect no cynicism in public from Britain and France over the American effort. But more than one senior official has already mused on the "electoral imperative". In plain man's talk that means the compelling desire of the American administration to banish Bosnia from the headlines before the campaign gets going for the presidential election next November. To adapt Marshal Foch, what Mr Clinton needs is an armistice for 13 months.

Mr Holbrooke has much to do before confronting such cynics. The ceasefire is not yet achieved. It will come into effect on 10 October only if the Sarajevo government is satisfied that gas and electricity supplies are restored to the Bosnian capital. Expect a delay on that score, accompanied by mutual accusations of bad faith.

Fifteen days later, the warring parties are to travel to the United States for "proximity talks". This is an ominous diplomatic phrase, reminiscent of the tedious bargaining process that perished before Israeli and Arabs would sit in the same room at the State Department.

It means that Mr Holbrooke and his team want to perform shuttle diplomacy without an armistice. The fruit of such talks is utterly dependent on the level of representation and the mandate accorded to each delegation.

Unfortunately, previous experience of Balkan diplomacy suggests that if the warring sides send only foreign ministers to the 25 October talks, little will be achieved. There



is negotiating positions back to jockeying leaderships in Sarajevo, Pale, Belgrade and Zagreb.

Then there is the other favourite gambit of "ratification," by which every side can claim its agreement is subject to approval by a national assembly, every one of which, apart



from Croatia's, is of dubious domestic legitimacy. This is a method of incurring delay to gain advantage.

Mr Clinton must therefore be hoping that he gets the real leaders - Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudjman, Alija Izetbegovic and a significant Bosnian

process can be strong enough to withstand the impact of ceasefire violations. Expect a strenuous effort by the United Nations and Western governments to downplay or cover up incidents that could jeopardise the negotiations.

The Holbrooke timetable

Fear makes Sarajevo support plan

EMMA DALY
Zagreb

The Bosnian government has finally succumbed to the temptations of a ceasefire, not only because of intense pressure from Washington, but for fear of losing, once again, on the battlefield.

Despite the stunning successes of the past two months, in which the proportion of territory held by the Bosnian Serb army has plunged from 70 per cent of the country to around half, the momentum has slowed. The government forces, over-stretched and under-equipped, are only just holding the new lines in north-western Bosnia. Recent Serb counter-attacks did not regain much ground, and the UN remarked on a notable absence of artillery support from the Croatian forces in the area, whose participation was vital to the success of the September offensive.

The new front lines more or less fulfil the needs of both sides in north-western Bosnia, for example, the government has retaken several large towns and pushed the enemy out of range of Bihać. The Serbs have carved out a buffer zone around Prijedor, and kept the government army away from the stronghold of Banja Luka.

Government forces in the area have a strong incentive to agree a truce - the troops are exhausted and need a rest - at least for the short-term. Despite the blisters and the casualties taken by the men of the Bosnian Fifth Corps attacking out of Bihać, morale seems high and soldiers are determined to capitalise on their huge gains and push forward. Although crucial issues remain unresolved, the planned opening of a road to the beleaguered eastern Bosnian enclave of Gorazde should ease pressure on government forces there, and so reduce the urgency of Sarajevo's attacks around Imovo and the Treskavica.

The political battle would also be greatly enhanced if the Bosnian government army and its allies in the Croatian forces could push north and west to threaten the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka. Taking the town would almost certainly be far beyond the government's capabilities, but moving well within artillery range would concentrate rebel minds in the negotiations on a post-war Bosnia.

That may be the aspiration.

But even if the government,

with help from the Croats,

manages only to hold on to the land won in western Bosnia, the Ozren finger near Maglaj and the Treskavica mountain range south of Sarajevo, it will be in a far stronger position than it can have dreamed of two months ago. And a ceasefire would certainly help.

UN to pull out 9,000 troops

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent
and RUPERT CORNWELL
Williamsburg

The UN last night announced it was pulling 9,000 troops out of Bosnia and Croatia, reducing its strength to 21,000; and more withdrawals are likely, UN sources said. Britain and Canada confirmed large troop withdrawals.

The timing was clearly connected with the US-brokered ceasefire. There are about 18,000 UN protection force troops in Bosnia, plus another 9,000 in the UN Rapid Reaction Force. Britain had 8,500 in both forces. France the same, and Canada 2,000.

Last night the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, confirmed that Britain would be withdrawing 3,300 of the 4,000-strong 24 Armoured Brigade from the Rapid Reaction Force. The MoD said it was a "redeployment", and that the troops would remain under the UN while in Britain, on seven days' notice to move.

Canada said it would not replace its 850-strong battalion, based at Visoko in central

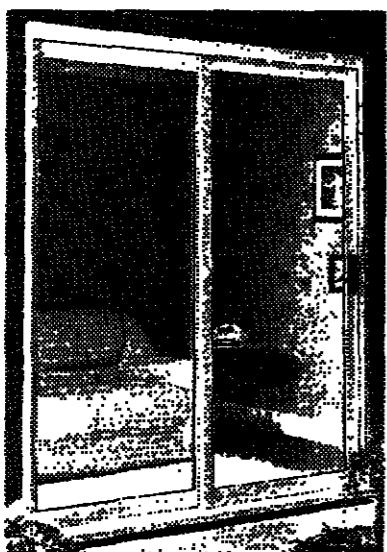
Bosnia, when its six-month tour of duty ends in November. Other Canadian personnel would remain as UN observers and as part of the air and sea operations over and around Bosnia. Andre Ouellet, the Foreign Minister, said Canadian troops might return as part of a Peace Implementation Force under Nato command.

As currently envisaged, the Peace Implementation Force (PIF) will total around 60,000 men, of which the US would contribute a third.

Almost certainly it will be under an American overall commander. British officials said Britain's contribution could be a brigade of 5,000-7,000 troops, with a similar sized French contingent. Some of the UN forces already in Bosnia would be configured into a Nato operation.

Washington and its main allies seem to be resolving earlier differences over how to strengthen the Muslim government's army, something the US Defence Secretary, William Perry, believes is vital if there is to be military stability on the ground once Nato has left, probably after 9-12 months.

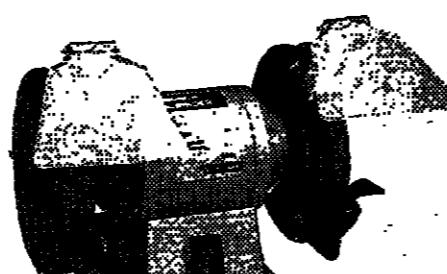
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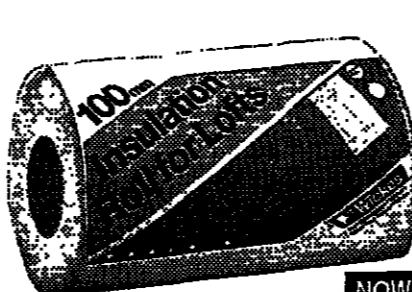


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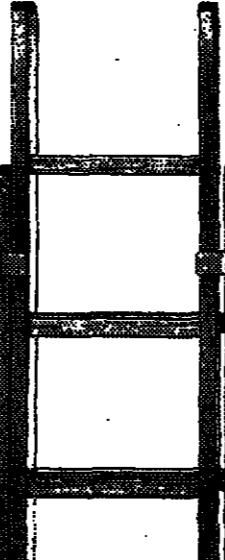
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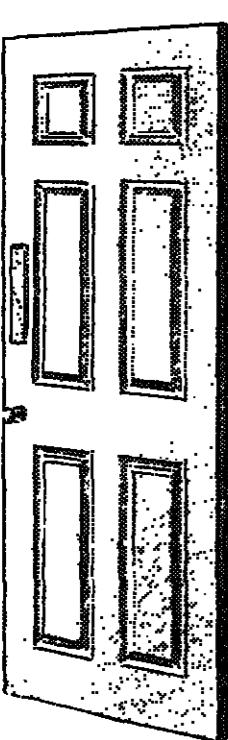
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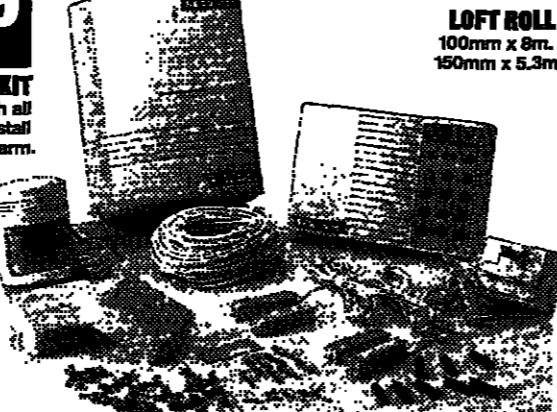
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CEASEFIRE IN BOSNIA

or nothing more than an armed peace?

Children wave a UN flag as they play in a Sarajevo street during a lull in the fighting (left). Whether that brief period of safety becomes a long-term reality for Bosnia could well depend on Nato troops such as the British soldier (right) at an observation post near the city



may slip. But if it is fulfilled the participants will proceed to Paris for a full-dress peace conference.

Geneva, the scene of previous abortive conferences, tarnished by its association with the failed UN intervention in Yugoslavia, seems to have been

ruled out. This decision has more to do with symbolism than protocol and it is important. The next stage of the conflict will be managed by the major powers and policed by Nato. The UN will provide only a fig-leaf—one of the many consequences of this debacle.

The Clinton announcement coincided with a statement by the UN that 9,000 soldiers will be withdrawn from Bosnia, reducing the force to about 21,000. Those pulling out include Britain's 24th Airmobile Brigade, whose deployment had been blocked by the gov-

ernments of Bosnia and Croatia. If they go back—and it is a bigger "if" than many think—they will go as part of a Nato peace implementation force, including US ground troops.

It is usually wise to read the small print in official statements about Bosnia and the rel-

evant clauses in American pronouncements are those which assert that the Nato peace force will only arrive *after* a peace settlement has been reached. That means after the successful completion of the 10 October ceasefire, the 25 October talks and the Paris peace conference.

The final chapter?

28 August More than 30 people killed and dozens wounded when shell strikes into crowded street near Sarajevo's central market.

29 August Nato launches massive dawn air-strikes on Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo.

31 August Holbrooke says "road now seems open to serious, substantive negotiations". Russia backs a further condemnation of Nato raids.

1 September Air-strikes are suspended after more than 800 sorties to give Bosnian Serbs a chance to respond to Nato demands to pull big guns back from Sarajevo and open roads. Holbrooke arranges first face-to-face peace talks between the Bosnian, Croatian and Yugoslav foreign ministers.

2 September Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladić leaves talks after 13 hours without giving the UN commander, General Bernard Janvier, categorical assurances that siege of Sarajevo would be lifted. Air-strikes resume.

8 September Holbrooke, in Geneva, announces preliminary agreement on a unified Bosnian state divided into Muslim-Croat and Serb statelets.

13 September Nato halts air-strikes after Serbs agree to remove most of their heavy guns.

26 September All parties agree to flesh out 8 September deal with outline of constitutional arrangements for a new Bosnian state.

5 October The warring factions agree to US-brokered ceasefire effective from 10 October and to full-scale peace talks in Washington beginning about 25 October.

Little wonder that the British UN commander in Bosnia, Lt Gen Rupert Smith, is preparing for a different set of contingencies. Generals are sometimes accused of planning to fight the last war. Gen Smith has refined the process. His dispositions envisage a continuation of hostilities on or about present levels, the absence of an overall settlement and the extended presence of a smaller peace-keeping force centred on Sarajevo. Much like the status quo, in other words.

Lord Owen once remarked that the UN in Bosnia was all a matter of bluff. Mr Holbrooke has skinned so quickly over the Balkan quagmire that it has not yet stuck at his shoes: his agreements are verbal, his understandings matters of honour. The bluff will soon be called. Only Mr Clinton can convert it into fact.

The eight points that spell hope

Text of the ceasefire agreement for Bosnia announced yesterday by President Bill Clinton, as released by the US embassy in Zagreb, Croatia:

1. Commencing on the effective date defined in para 2 below, the parties will implement a ceasefire throughout all territory within the borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina by terminating all hostile military activities and by implementing the other provisions of this agreement.

2. The ceasefire will become effective at 0001 hours on 10 October 1995, provided that full gas and electrical utility service shall have been restored in the city of Sarajevo; otherwise, the ceasefire will become effective at 0001 hours on the day after such restoration.

3. In order to allow for the negotiation and the commencement of the implementation of a Peace Agreement, this ceasefire will last for 60 days or until completion of Proximity Peace Talks and Peace Conference, whichever is later.

4. Pursuant to the ceasefire obligation, on the effective date all parties will immediately ensure that all commanders issue and compel compliance with clear orders precluding (a) all offensive operations, (b) patrol and reconnaissance activities forward of friendly positions,

(c) all offensive weapons firings including sniper fire, (d) the laying of additional mines, and (e) the creation of additional barriers or obstacles.

5. Upon the effective date all parties will immediately ensure (a) that civilians and prisoners will be treated humanely and (b) that all prisoners of war will be exchanged under Unprofor supervision.

6. Commencing on the effective date, the parties will cooperate with the ceasefire monitoring activities of Unprofor and will immediately report violations to appropriate Unprofor authorities.

7. Commencing on the effective date all parties will provide free passage and unimpeded access between Sarajevo and Gorazde along two primary routes (Sarajevo-Rogatica-Gorazde) for non-military and Unprofor traffic.

8. During the period of the ceasefire, the undersigned will fully honour the obligations undertaken through the Geneva Agreed Basic Principles of September 8, 1995, the Framework Agreement of September 14 1995, including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) the obligation to afford all persons freedom of movement and displaced persons the right to return home and repossess their property.

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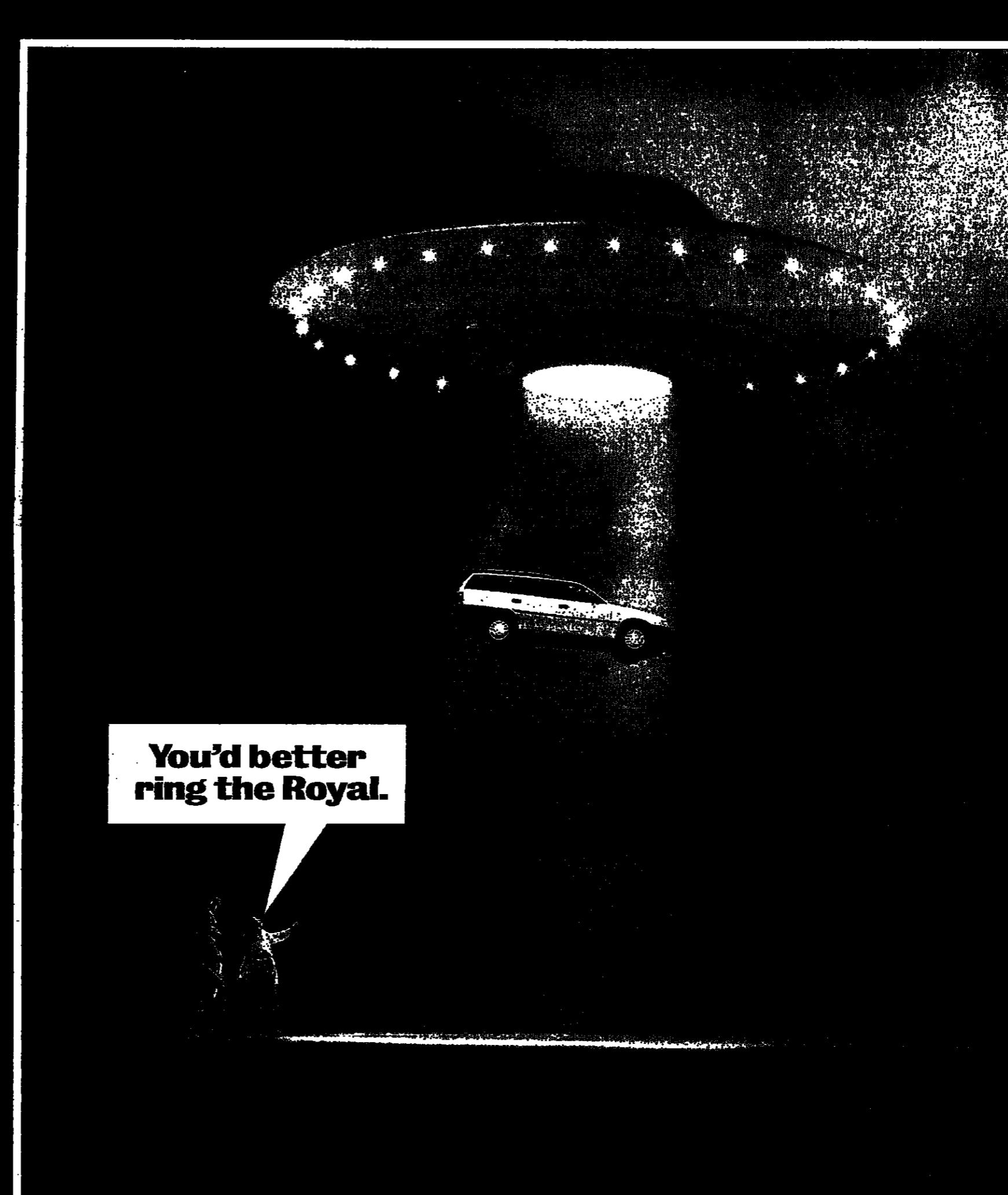
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Moi shields Rwanda suspects

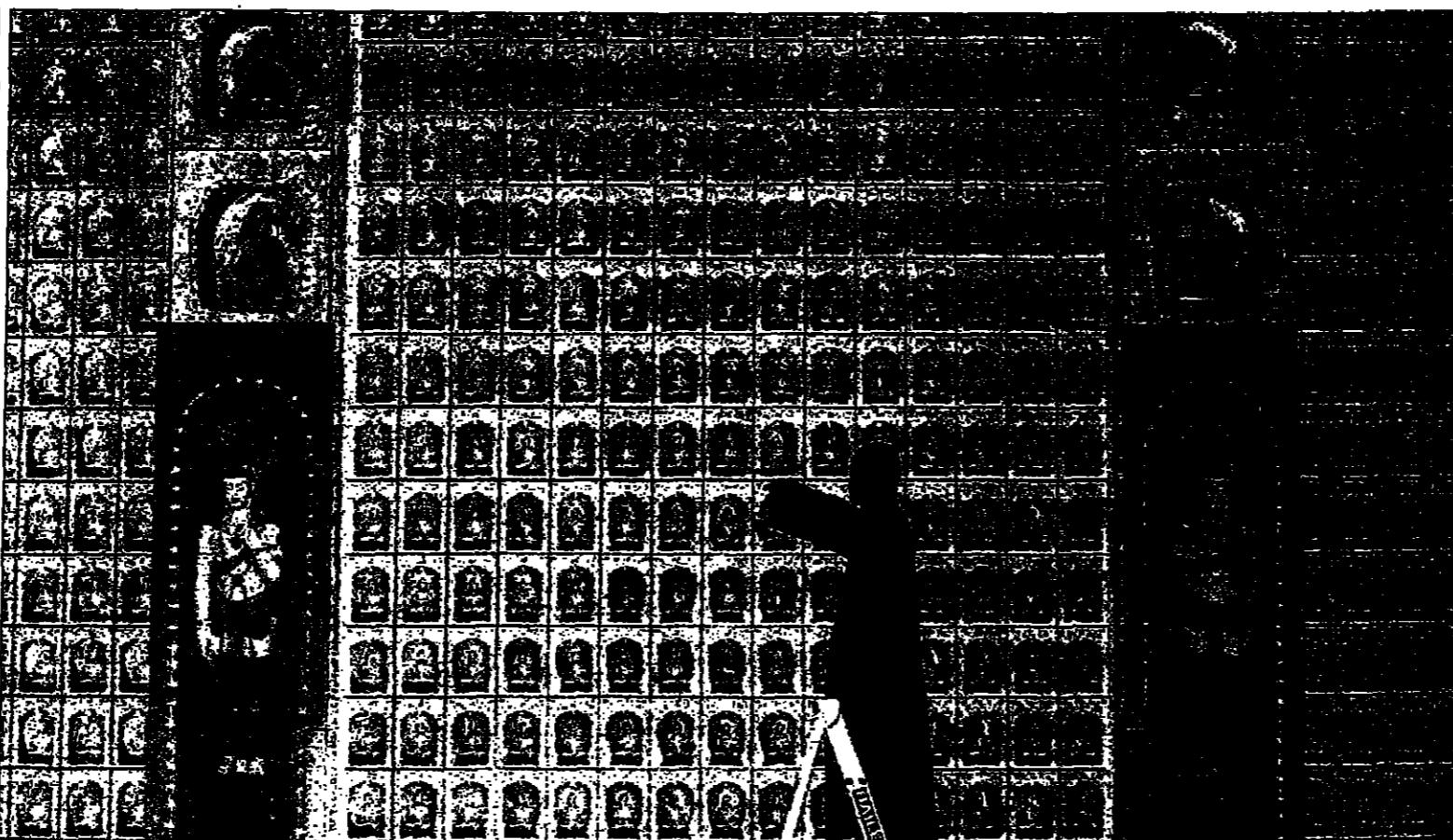
PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

Nairobi — President Daniel arap Moi refused yesterday to extradite former Rwandan officials living in Kenya who are wanted for trial before an international court on genocide charges.

He said that any international officers who try to apprehend suspects in Kenya will be arrested upon arrival.

"It's outrageous," said Rakhi Omaar, of the London-based Africa Rights. She added that Kenya is one of the main countries in the world harbouring suspects from the genocide that killed an estimated 500,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis. "Moi [is] making it very clear that these people have complete and total impunity, not only for now but for ever."

Justice Richard Goldstone, chief prosecutor of the international tribunal, demanded an explanation in a letter sent yesterday to President Moi. He added that Kenya's position would violate international law.



Omnipresence: The Rev Man Chu checks 8,000 golden statues of the Buddha for the opening tomorrow of the \$22m Nan Tien Temple, near Sydney. The largest Buddhist complex in the southern hemisphere is the Australian HQ of Taiwan's Fo Kuang Shan Buddhists. Photograph: AFP

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A relaxed coup leader surrenders to France

TOM COHEN
Associated Press

Moroni — Bob Denard and his two dozen soldiers of fortune surrendered to French special forces and police yesterday, a week after he launched his third coup in the Comoros islands.

In driving rain, "Colonel" Denard was the first to walk out of military headquarters and undergo a body search by two French commandos. He appeared relaxed, joking with French journalists. The commandos then escorted Africa's most notorious general-for-hire to a car.

Two of his lieutenants followed and were placed in separate cars. The three vehicles sped to an abandoned airfield near Moroni's harbour, and from there Mr Denard boarded a helicopter for Habaya airfield, 12 miles north of the city.

He had negotiated with French officers yesterday, agreeing to surrender after being assured his men would not be harmed. "I don't consider myself a prisoner," Mr Denard told journalists as he surrendered. "There are no conditions, there is no surrender... today it's raining and Comorians are crying."

Mr Denard claimed to have taken over the Comoros to save them from a corrupt president. But one Comorian, Abda Mohamed, smiled as he watched the motorcade go by the harbour. "He's gone. It is good," he said. "Now the French must leave us alone."

The other mercenaries and 300 Comorian soldiers who had embraced the coup followed Mr Denard in groups of 10, and were driven away in minibuses.

Hours after the French took control on Wednesday, Mr Denard freed Mohamed Djohar, the president he deposed one week ago, and announced he was ready to give up on his latest coup attempt.

Mr Denard, grey-haired and limping after decades of soldiering, has staged several coups on this poverty-stricken chain of islands between Mozambique and Madagascar, which he ruled through figure-head presidents from 1978 to 1989, when France negotiated his departure. Wednesday's intervention seemed to mark an end to French tolerance for the buccaneering figure who has claimed to have served French interests around Africa.

At least three people died and 11 were injured in the dawn assault on Wednesday. The dead included two Comorian soldiers and a motorcycle rider killed by gunfire while transporting a French news photographer.

The French had demanded Mr Denard's unconditional surrender, saying they had issued an international warrant for his arrest. Prosecutors in France said that he had illegally left the country as they investigated his role in the 1989 death of another Comorian president, Ahmed Abdallah, Abderrahmane.

In a radio broadcast on Wednesday, the Prime Minister, Mohammed Caabi el Yachrouni, who hid in the French embassy during the coup, announced an amnesty for all soldiers who supported the uprising.

Opposition groups accuse Mr Djohar of incompetence and corruption and have demanded new elections as soon as possible.

They were unlikely to support the new coalition government Mr Yachrouni announced in a fax sent to France on Wednesday.

Mr Denard had been living quietly in France since 1993, when he was given a five-year suspended sentence for trying to overthrow the Marxist government of Benin in 1977. He remains under a death sentence in Benin.

This is one issue Juppé cannot duck

PEOPLE



Alain Juppé: Suffering a satirical attack

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, is getting help in his cost-cutting campaign from an unexpected source: *Le Canard Enchaîné*. For three months, the satirical weekly will mail free copies to Mr Juppé's home. This follows the Prime Minister's decision to slice the number of his office's 70 subscriptions by two-thirds.

"This is, anyway, much longer than many magistrates and friends of Alain Juppé predict he will stay at [Hôtel] Matignon [his official residence]," the paper said.

Opinion polls indicate Mr Juppé's popularity has fallen sharply amid criticism of his economic policies. He faces possible prosecution for ordering a reduction in the rent on his son's city-owned apartment when he was in charge of Paris's finances in 1989-93. Mr Juppé also allegedly made the city pay for 1m francs of renovations on his own flat.

The man who was Mayor of Paris when Mr Juppé was in charge of the finances, President Jacques Chirac, was "mad" and destined to become a global laughing stock, François Mitterrand has been quoted as saying.

Jacques Attali, a top aide of the former President, has just published *Verbatim III*, his third volume of memoirs of the Mitterrand era. "At heart, this man is mad. He says and does anything," Mr Attali quotes his former boss as saying of Mr Chirac. "He might get elected after me but he would soon be the laughing stock of the world."

Much of Mr Attali's book is devoted to Mr Mitterrand's dislike of his own former Prime Minister, Michel Rocard. "Rocard has neither the capacity nor the character for this post," he said of his 1988-91 Prime Minister. "But since the French want him, they'll get him."

Do politically correct Indonesian houses come in any colour you like, as long as they're yellow? The country's Minister of Information, Harmoko, has been accused of forcing government functionaries to paint everything yellow, the colour of the ruling Golkar party, which he heads.

Golkar's executive board "never ordered 'Yellow-nation'"

Mikhail Gorbachev told Reuters news agency in New York this week: "I haven't had a vacation in three years."

"It's not important if I like working or not — it's because I must; I should like to stroll in sunny places and lie on the beach."

Mr Gorbachev, who could be planting potatoes at his *dacha* — or painting it yellow — is on his sixth lecture and conference tour of the United States since he became a pensioner four years ago.

He is still thinking of running for the Russian presidency and is grappling with a problem few politicians ever face: what to do after profoundly changing history.

Mr Gorbachev says his drive to keep doing things comes from within. "When I went to school, no one ever sent me, no one ever watched over me," he explained.

"My mother and father did not even know what my grades were, but nonetheless, I finished. It's something nature gave to Gorbachev."

MARYANN BIRD

After the verdict: Pay-TV chief attacks 'disgusting' \$20m auction as jurors open their hearts and Simpson himself phones in 'Obscene' contest for OJ interview divides media

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

The head of the largest pay-TV distributor in the United States has refused even to consider screening an interview with OJ Simpson. Hugh Panero, president of Request TV, said "somebody has to draw the line", adding such a show would be cynical, "even obscene".

Since Mr Simpson's lawyers have publicly aired the idea, promoters have been itching to get on board. Television viewers would typically pay anything from \$15 to \$50 (£10 to £32) to receive such a programme on satellite or cable. One producer offered publicity to guarantee Simpson at least \$20m (nearly £13m).

The mixed reaction in the entertainment industry to the Mr Simpson's acquittal of murdering his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman was one measure of the public discomfort.

Though the trial of the century was over, the media circus continued relentlessly in a massive national talkathon. Gina Rhodes Rossborough, the latest juror to break her silence, opened her heart on *Oprah Winfrey*: schoolmates of the dis-

credited police witness, Mark Fuhrman, revealed he spouted racial epithets as a boy.

CNN's *Larry King Live* matched the defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran with an alternate juror, Watson Calhoun, a retired bus driver. That brought a telephone call to the studio from Mr Simpson himself. Skipping past the reporters who surrounded his Brentwood estate, he had earlier been reunited privately with his children: Justin, seven, and Sydney, nine.

Mr Simpson began by paying public tribute to Mr Cochran. But he attacked the prosecutors Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden for their "distortions", and TV trial commentators for perpetuating them.

"My basic anger is these misconceptions," he said. "Fortunately for me, the jury listened what the witness said and not Marcia Clark's or Darden's, or anyone else's, rendition of what was said." When the show's host pressed him with questions, he said he had to go.

So many times, Mr Simpson said, he went back to his cell and could not reconcile what he saw on television with the day's events in court.

He admitted being the "shad-

owy figure" seen outside his house by the chauffeur Allan Park on the night of the murders, but insisted he was simply dropping his bags by the door.

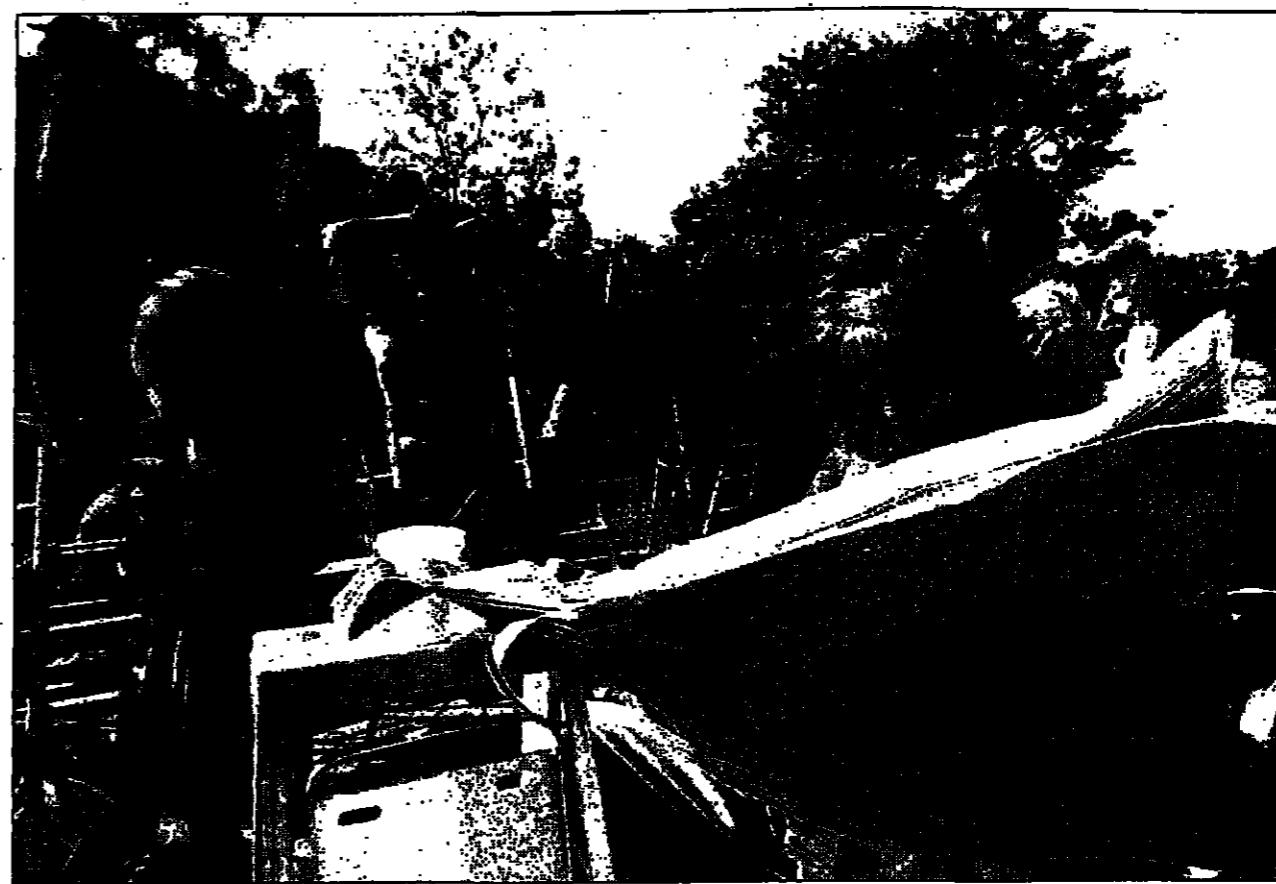
There were few voices of reconciliation heard yesterday, or signs that racial differences on the role of Simpson, racism, and the Los Angeles Police Department had eased. Many blacks who talked publicly seemed to view the fact that 50 per cent of Americans disagreed with their verdict as a racist insult to the intelligence of the black-dominated jury.

The decision by Mr Simpson's defence team not to put him on the stand prevented a damaging cross-examination in court. A pay-per-view appearance would offer a sympathetic platform to face the outstanding questions.

It could also more than pay off the reported \$5m (£3m) mortgage he took out to meet legal fees. It would avoid the need to court sceptical advertisers - the Hertz rental car company, for one, has said it will not use him as its front man again.

With the prospect of tens of millions in revenues, at least one company is in talks with Mr Simpson's lawyers, and Request TV's main rival may be open to a deal. But other giants in the industry, including Time Warner's pay-per-view arm, the Home Box Office channel, and CNN, have also ruled it out.

In interviews, Request's boss, Mr Panero, did not mince his words. "One person was decapitated, another slashed to death, and two kids will never see their parents again. The idea of any 'special' exploiting this tragedy, regardless of whether Simpson did it or not, just disgusts me."



Media watch: Reporters massing outside OJ Simpson's home in the hope of an interview

Photograph: AFP

Poor blacks in fear of white backlash

The right is already reaping the harvest of a 'political' verdict, writes John Carlin

Washington — There is a whiff of white backlash in the air since the not-guilty verdict in the OJ Simpson trial. Jesse Jackson says his office in Washington has been inundated with hate calls, so does a black church minister in Los Angeles. Radio talk show hosts say they have been besieged by angry white callers. Even white liberals have been outraged by what they see as a gross miscarriage of justice.

As for Mr Simpson himself, once the party's over he will look around him, glance at the security guards protecting his home 24 hours a day and contemplate the thought that while he escaped jail he will be a prisoner for the rest of his days of the fear that a deranged white man will gun him down.

The spur to white indignation has been the feeling that, for most of the people, the Simpson case was not a murder trial but a political trial, that the jurors — nine of them black — took Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's lawyer, at his word and used the verdict to send a message to the white establishment, to the forces of law and order, that they were sick of racial discrimination. The point was not whether Mr Simpson had murdered his wife, the point is — and black people have been saying as much — to get him off.

Chris Darden: Prosecution lawyer faces death threats

As if to underline the point, one juror gave a black power salute in the courtroom after the verdict was announced; another said he had been convinced even before the trial began that Mr Simpson was innocent. One former black member of the jury who stepped down halfway through the trial said the verdict "was a great day for African Americans".

On hearing the verdict on Tuesday a throng of law students in a hall at Washington's all-black Howard University jumped up in celebration, cheering and dancing in scenes reminiscent of Soweto when Nelson Mandela was released from prison. Such is the significance the trial has acquired that Chris Darden, the black prosecution lawyer, has been accused of being an Uncle Tom. He has received death threats and been forced to hire bodyguards.

The question now is what form, if any, a white backlash will take. Already it is possible to detect in white people the attitude that with Tuesday's triumph the slate of historical injustices endured by blacks has been wiped clean. "OK,

You've had your day in the sun, you've savoured your moment of liberation," is the prevailing white view. "Now the playing field is finally level. So stop whining and stop asking for special favours."

One thing that can be confidently expected is that the Republican impetus to stamp out affirmative action and cut welfare spending for the poor will gather new energy — and possibly new allies. Proposals for tougher laws to protect "victim's rights", a catchword of the US right, will generate a wider appeal among the voters of Mid-Atlantic America.

For few people are under any illusion that when politicians talk about fighting crime, they mean black crime: figures released this week revealed that on any given day one in three black Americans in their twenties find themselves under the supervision of the criminal justice system. It has been a long established fact that while blacks make up 12 per cent of the national population, they make up more than 50 per cent of the prison population.

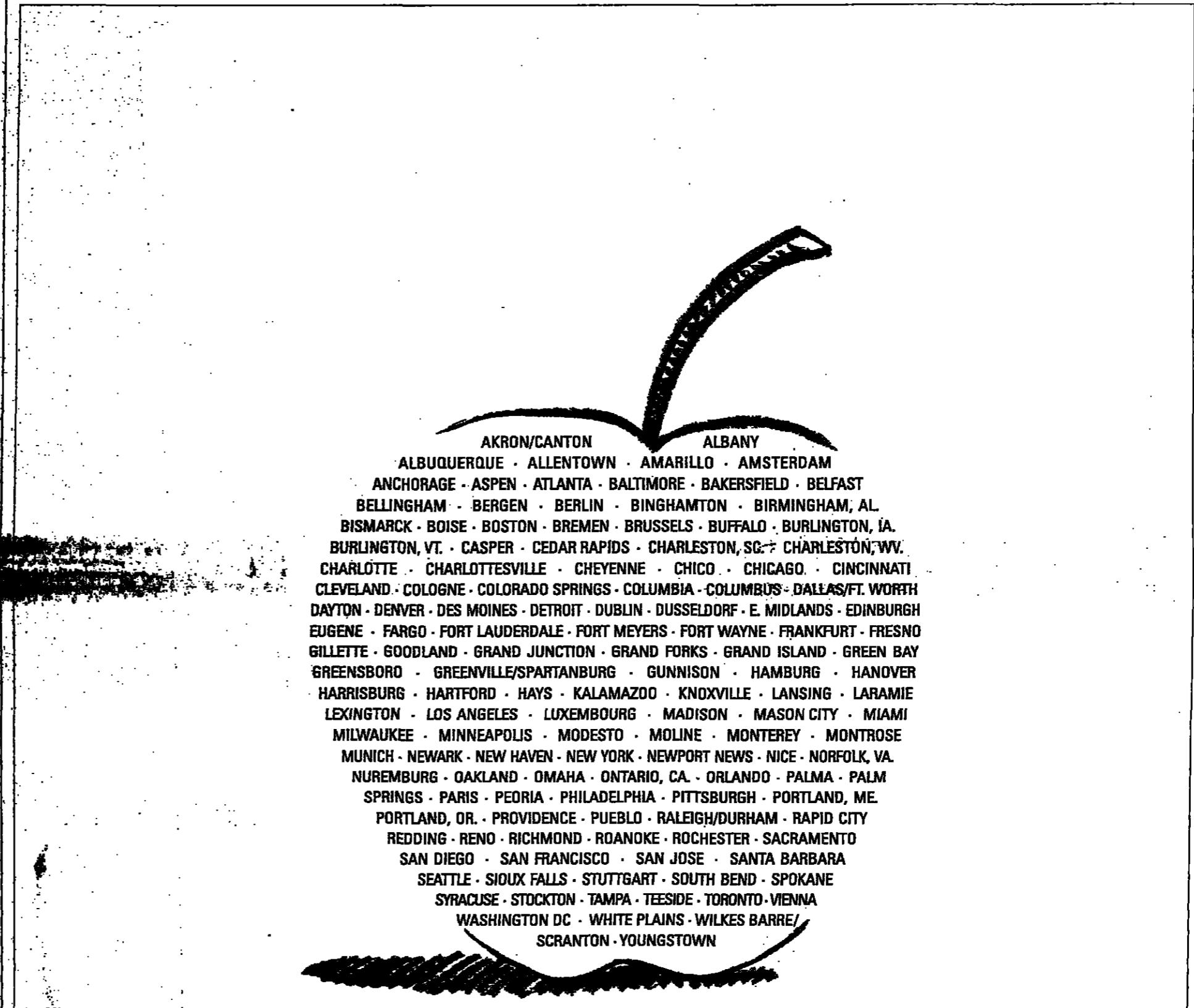
Complaints that these figures illustrate the institutional discrimination to which black people are subject in America will now fall on ears even more deaf than before.

The price of OJ's triumph may be high for black Americans. Some are beginning to realise this. A public defender in Los Angeles said yesterday that there was a great deal of foreboding among her colleagues. Public defenders are the lawyers provided by the state to people who cannot afford to pay millions of dollars, as Mr Simpson did, for a legal "dream team". In other words, the vast majority of Americans who pass before the courts depend on public defenders for their freedom and often for their lives.

"Already our clients have the odds stacked heavily against them," said the Los Angeles public defender, who did not wish to be named. "We're now bracing ourselves for tougher laws, tougher juries, if they happen to be white, and intimidated cops out to get revenge."

The laws in California are already tough enough. Within 20 minutes of the Simpson verdict being delivered a black drug addict stood in another Los Angeles court awaiting sentence for possession of crack cocaine. This was his third conviction. California has recently introduced a law known as "three strikes and you're out" — meaning that after a third conviction the authorities lock you up and throw away the key. The black addict received a sentence of 25 years — the same as Mr Simpson would have received had he been found guilty.

"Three strikes and you're out" is sure now to generate a stronger appeal than ever in states beyond California. And it is blacks who will suffer the worst of the consequences. Poor blacks — not rich blacks like Mr Simpson.



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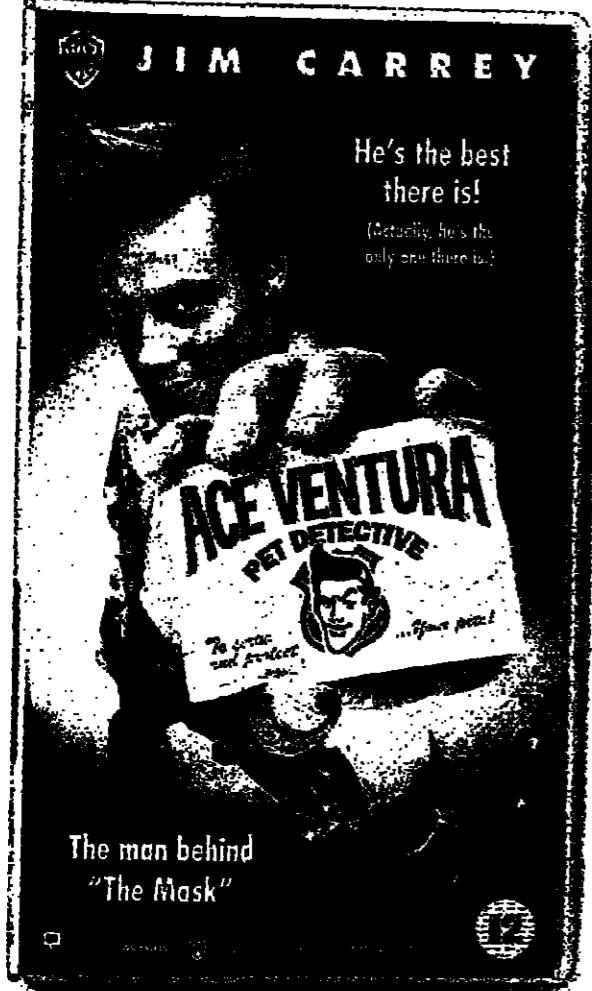
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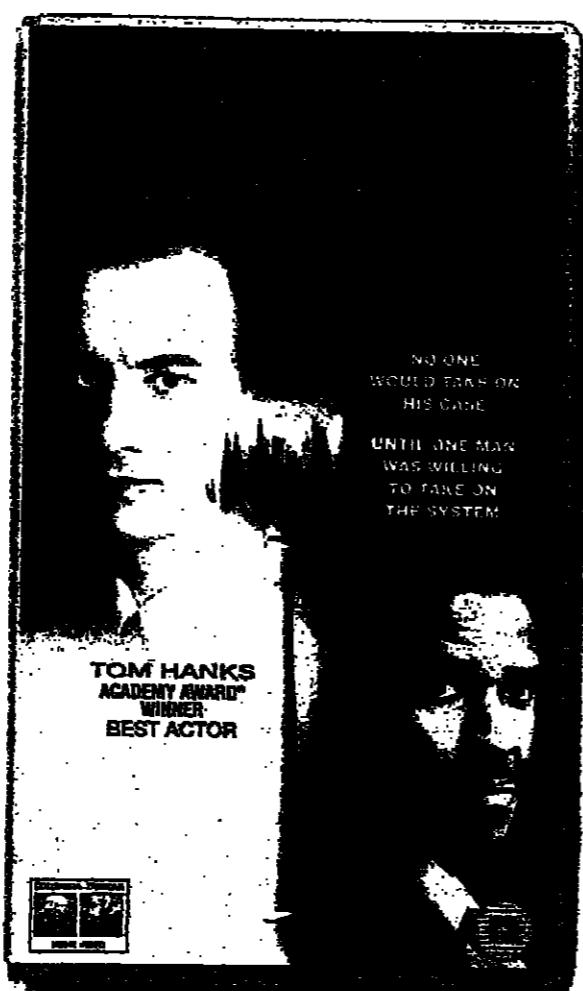
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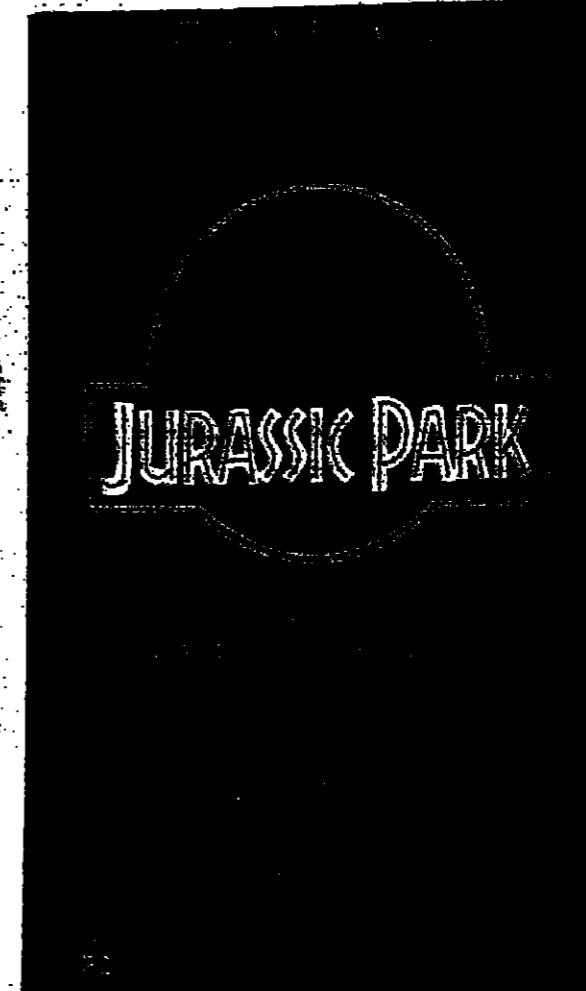
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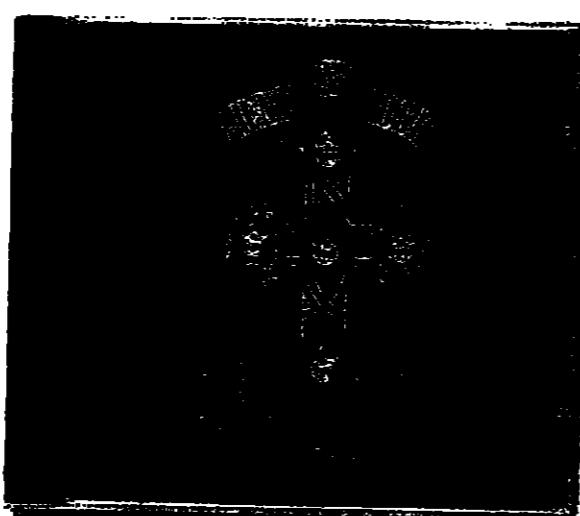
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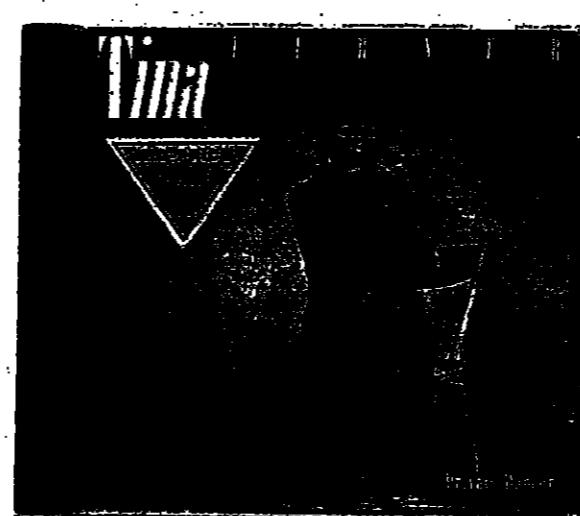
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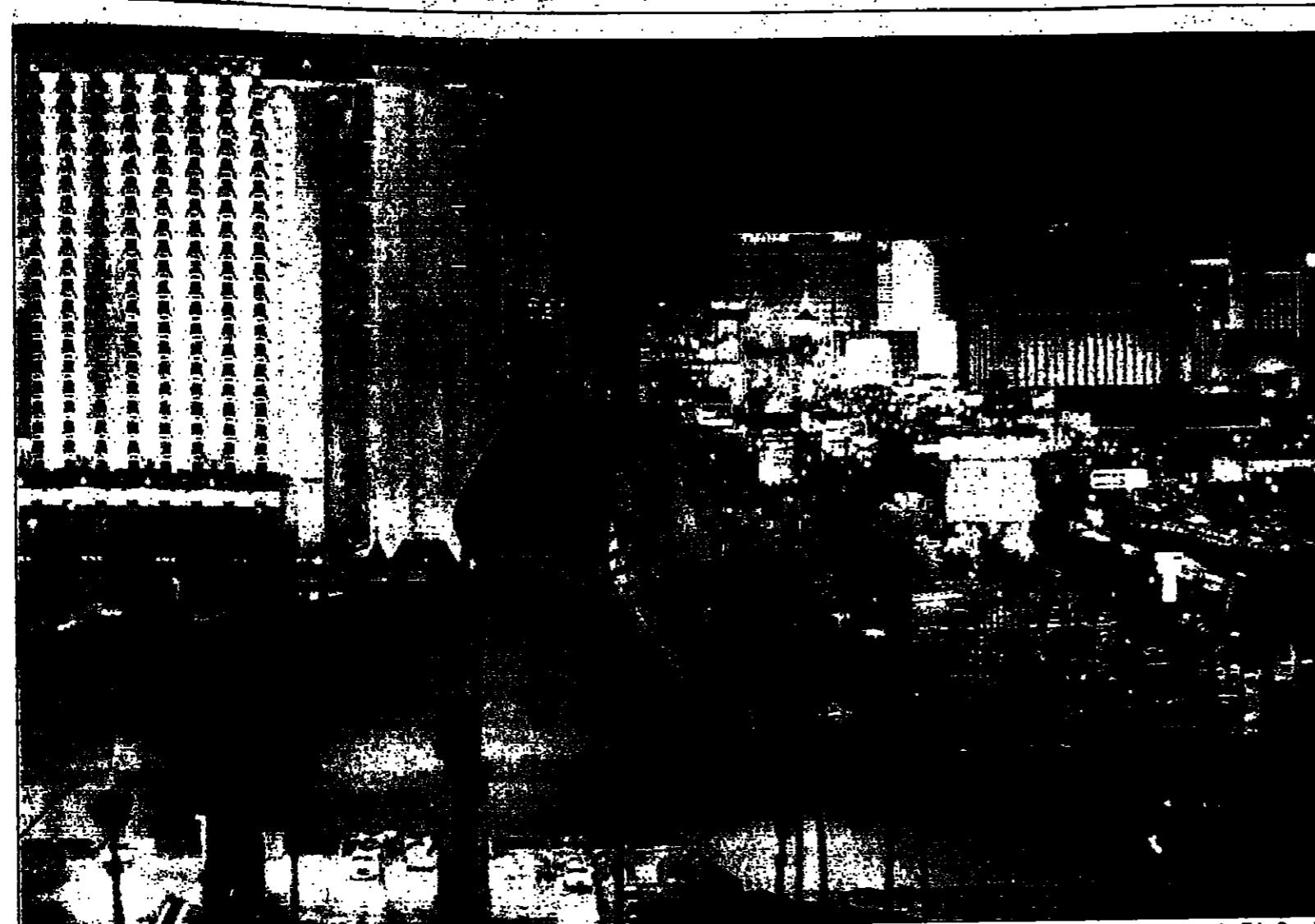
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Giant hallucination: In Las Vegas and the Luxor Hotel, you regress into a child-like state where anything seems possible. Photograph: Eric Sander

LAS VEGAS DAYS

A camel's-eye view of world's eighth wonder

I was standing in the lobby of my hotel eavesdropping on a conversation between two camels. One was called Jody. The other Elias. "Boys!" said Elias. "It was a long walk from Egypt but it was worth it!" "It certainly was," gushed Jody. "In fact, the Luxor Hotel is the eighth wonder of the world!"

It is not often that you find yourself in agreement with a camel, but the moment you set eyes on Las Vegas you regress into a state of child-like wonder where absolutely anything seems possible. On the night over I had read Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: a savage journey to the heart of the American Dream*. Thompson arms himself for the expedition with a suitcase full of psychedelic drugs but discovers upon arrival that the precaution has been redundant, that Las Vegas itself is one giant hallucination.

For myself, all I can say is that life up to this point had failed entirely to prepare me for Las Vegas' newest creation, the Luxor Hotel, a giant pyramid of black glass guarded by a sphinx



Inscrutable: A sphinx with a nose job and blue eyes

with a nose job and bright blue eyes. The sphinx stands six floors high, the pyramid 36. Each of the four sides of the pyramid's base is twice the length of a football pitch.

I went through the glass doors and found myself inside the biggest indoor space in the world. As my guide on the Nile River Cruise would later inform me, you could fit nine jumbo jets in here and still have space left for a couple of hundred slot machines. It was like a city turned inside out. The 2,526 rooms were contained within the pyramid's inner layer, the structure supporting the black glass exterior. Looking up I saw rows and rows of doors on open terraces rising, in diminishing dimensions, to the conical roof.

An obelisk rose high from the middle of the casino floor, a jangling inferno in fuchsia and magenta where peroxide grandmothers fed habitations of hungry slot machines. To one side of the reception desk, an airport check-in counter 70 yards long operated by people in orange suits. I spotted Jody and Elias. They looked real. They were tall and furry. They moved their necks up and down and their lower mandibles from side to side. They blinked and wagged their tails. Had they not spoken

I might not have noticed that their bodies, between the base of the neck and the base of the tail, were inert. In a photograph you could not tell the difference.

I went up to my 15th-floor room in an "inclinator" with a mirror for a ceiling and emerged rather woefully to discover that I was peering at the top of New York's Chrysler Building. King Kong was clinging to the spire. I fled to my room - reassuringly mundane save for the hieroglyphics on the carpetboard and sought comfort in California Clinton, Calif. I had yet, suddenly, to far away. I turned off the TV and looked out on a moonless, moonless. For an instant I wondered if it was made of paper mache.

Next morning I went for breakfast to the Pyramid Cafet (I wasn't quite ready yet for Nut's Nut, Neferet's Lounge and the Sacred Sea Restaurant.)

On the menu was a dish called Pharaoh's Flavourite, of "delicious chicken fried steak smothered with country gravy and two eggs any style, served with hashbrowns and toast". I decided to settle for the Eggs Benedict Cheops.

Then I went for the cruise on the Nile. Me and 15 others on a barge with a guide in a satirist suit, who warned us as we stepped aboard that the Goddess Isis had issued a commandment forbidding smoking. Propelled along 300,000 gallons of water by a man-made current, we circumnavigated the interior of the pyramid. "To our right is the Valley of the Kings," said the guide, pointing to a mural, "and just ahead, to our left, Rameses III on a chariot." Mysterious music filled the air. We turned a bend and on the shore, through a mist, saw a mirage: a camel in a Cleopatra's wig performing a silent belly dance. We blinked and she was gone. Then into a tunnel where more mysterious music filled the air. Men wearing white handkerchiefs on their heads were playing flutes and small drums.

I could have spent a month sampling the wonders of this adult Disneyland. Among the things I managed to see were the Tutankhamun's Tomb museum, which contained replicas of 3,000-year-old cats with golden coats and turquoise claws; the hotel souvenir shop where they sold do-it-yourself "How to make a mummy" books, smelthys pyramids "Made in Mexico" and, for \$45,000, a sarcophagus made in the year 2000 BC; and Pharaoh's Theatre, where an 18-year-old was playing to packed houses of Middle Americans in shorts.

On the way out to the airport, I paused to bid my last farewell to the camels. They were still nattering away. "I know the names of the tributaries of the Nile!" said Elias. "You do?" said Jody. "Yep!" "I'm proud of you, Elias. What are their names?" "They are called the Juveniles!"

I stepped out into the bright desert sunlight and set off on the long trip back to adulthood and the real world.

JOHN CARLIN

The Pope calls on UN to be a real 'family of nations'

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The Pope stood before the General Assembly of the United Nations yesterday and called on the organisation to transform itself into a "family of nations" that fosters greater equality and mutual trust between its members.

Sealing a new bond between the Vatican and the UN, John Paul II spent several hours at the organisation's New York headquarters, conferring with the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and acknowledging the adoration of hundreds of cheering staff members.

The Secretary-General and his wife presented a medallion to the Pope, who in turn gave them small boxes with rosary beads.

The visit to the UN, during which he also said prayers before a memorial to UN workers who have died carrying out their duties around the world, was billed by the Vatican as the centrepiece of the Pontiff's five-day trip to the United

States, which will include a huge open-air mass in Central Park, New York tomorrow and conclude with a visit to Baltimore on Sunday.

In a philosophical and often dense address to the assembly, the Pope suggested that because of changing conditions around the world - in which freedom is threatened by extreme nationalism and the continuing inequality of the developing South and the industrialised North - the UN should be primarily concerned with resolving conflicts.

The Pope, he declared, needs to "rise more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral centre where all the nations of the world feel at home and develop a shared awareness of being, as it were, a 'family of nations'."

Underlining the threat represented by extreme nationalism and religious fundamentalism - what he called the "fear of difference" between different Echoing the complaints long expressed by developing countries in the UN that their needs have been pushed aside by the larger nations, and particularly by the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Pope added: "In an authentic family the strong do not dominate; instead, the weaker members, because of their very weakness, are all the more welcomed and served."

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Nation ruled by its divisions

The desk and tables are covered with chrome executive toys. Downstairs in his garage, Alhaji Lema Jibrilu keeps an even more impressive collection of playthings: shining Mercedes and four-wheel-drives.

Mr Jibrilu, a former presidential candidate, is a member of Nigeria's northern establishment, a man of wealth, influence and friends in high places. He is the archetypal *ogu* or Big Man. His ante-room is filled with a constant stream of petitioners and favour-seekers.

His home - all white marble and gleaming gilt - is in Kaduna, built by the British early in the century as capital of the northern region. Kaduna is noticeably cleaner than other Nigerian cities and there are no posh villas on the outskirts.

Mr Jibrilu denies belonging to the city's "mafia", a clique of northern power-brokers which many southerners believe dominates Nigerian politics. It may be - as Mr Jibrilu insists - a myth, but it is, nonetheless, a potent one.

There is no denying the influence of the north on Nigeria's political stage. Maybe "stage"

David Orr goes to Kaduna to meet one of northern Nigeria's 'big men'

is not the appropriate word here for, under the military regime, the business of government is conducted far behind the scenes. Notions of public accountability do not figure in the thinking of the Provisional Ruling Council which has been in control for nearly two years and which, it was announced at the weekend, is set at least for another three.

The politicians from the north are more dynamic in their approach, he said. "Southerners are lazy. They just want the presidency on a golden platter." There is, no irony in his sly voice. He speaks little store by the fact that Chief Moshood Abiola, a Yoruba and a Muslim, is believed to have won the 1993 election which, soon as the results became clear, was annulled by the then military ruler, General Ibrahim Babangida. Mr Jibrilu has no sympathy for Chief Abiola, who has been in jail since last year for proclaiming himself President in defiance of the ruling council and who faces a charge

of treason. New presidential and legislative elections are not to be held until 1998.

Mr Jibrilu is intolerant not only of pushy would-be presidents but of southern politicians who have been jailed for opposing the dictatorial regime of General Abacha. "There is no infringement of human rights in Nigeria", he insisted. "The pro-democracy movement is nothing but a gang of tribalists and anarchists." His stern views are not representative of all the north, for there are moderate voices here as well. But they are indicative of a perspective which sees the south as divisive and unruly.

"Northerners regard southerners as people they don't know well enough to trust with their fate", said Adanna Cironu, another Kaduna *ogu* and a minister in the Abacha government until he was sacked earlier this year. The Yoruba and Ibo are seen to be divided and unstable.

Like most northerners, Mr Cironu knows that the ruling council had no option but to accept the proposals of a government-sponsored constitu-

tional conference for the rotation of the presidency between north and south. General Abacha has taken the recommendation further, and, from October 1998, six key positions, including those of president and prime minister, are to be rotated among six newly created zones over a 30-year trial period. Whether this represents a victory over northern dominance remains to be seen.

Chief Abiola's constituency is not just among the Yoruba of the south-west. His Muslim

followers gave him national appeal - and a majority in the north.

For the time being, the

primacy of the north remains an

inescapable reality, deeply

rooted in political tradition. It

was fostered by the British

colonial policy of divide

and rule, and was continued after in-

dependence by leaders who

put the interests of their region

before those of the federation.

Perhaps most significantly,

the north is the power-base of

the military. And Nigerians are

only too aware of the military

rulers who have failed to deliver

on their promises of a return

to civil rule.

Hidden treasure: Divers in an inflatable raft assist a crane at the port of Alexandria as it lifts a 2,000-year-old Greek statue of a woman's torso in red granite from the sea bed. Archaeologists hope to soon bring to the surface parts of the white marble

Photograph: AP

IN BRIEF

Weakening Hurricane Opal kills two

Fort Walton Beach — The tail-end of Hurricane Opal tore through the US South, claiming two lives, as residents of Florida's Panhandle began the clean-up from the third hurricane to strike them this season. Opal weakened to a tropical depression by late morning, moving north after its Wednesday evening landfall, down from peak sustained winds of more than 150 mph. But wind and rain remained a threat and gale warnings were in effect. *Reuter*

Israeli right vents anger against Rabin

Jerusalem — Thousands of right-wing Israeli protested against the Jewish state's peace deal with the PLO yesterday as the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, tried to win approval for the accord in parliament. Angry demonstrators lined the streets in downtown Jerusalem holding torches and shouting "Rabin drop dead; we don't want you any more." *Reuter*

Amnesty man barred from China

London — An official of Amnesty International said he was barred from entering China for an international conference on corruption, despite having an official invitation. "We can only interpret it as punishment for Amnesty International's outspokenness at the Peking women's conference," said Nick Howen, Amnesty's director of legal and international organisations. Mr Howen, an Australian citizen, returned to London. *AP*

Car bomb kills nine at Algerian hotel

Paris — A car bomb exploded in a parking lot at Les Deux Palmiers hotel in Draa Ben Khedda in Tizi-Ouzou province, 55 miles east of Algiers, killing nine people and wounding 19, an official Algerian statement said. *Reuter*

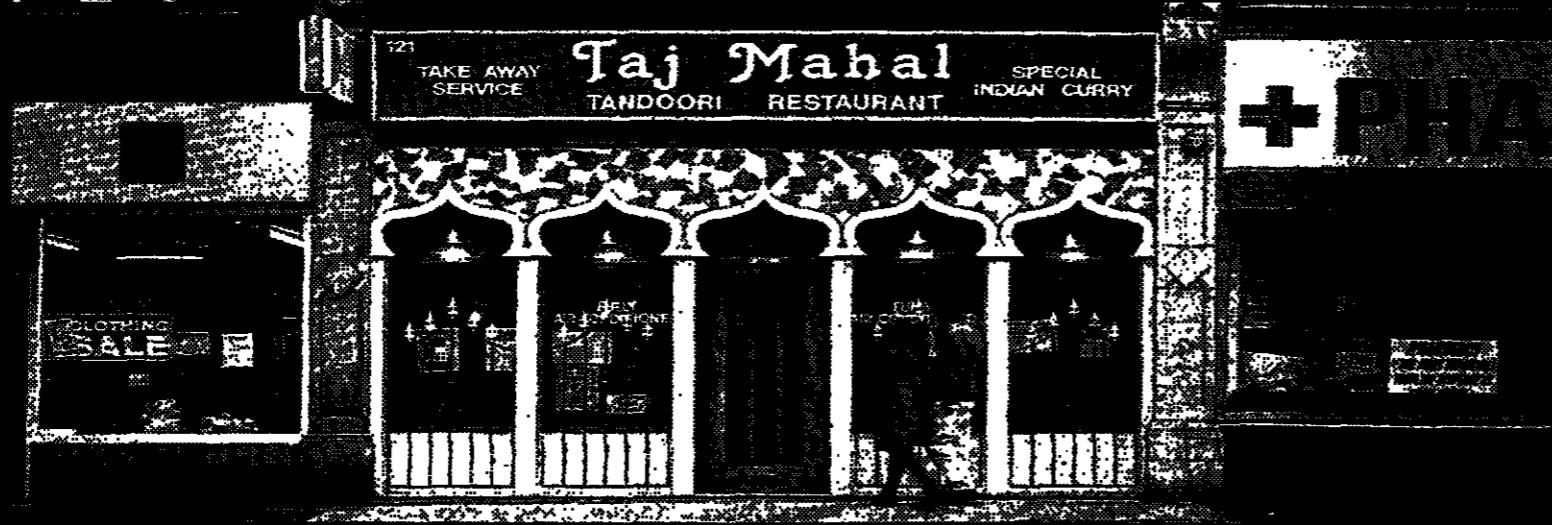
Key ministers named in Portugal

Lisbon — António Guterres' white Socialist Party won general elections in Portugal after a decade of rule by the Social Democratic Party, named four key ministers — Jaime Gama, foreign minister; António Sousa Franco, finance minister; Daniel Bessa, head of a new "super-ministry" in charge of industry, trade and tourism, and António Vitorino, defence and presidency minister. *Reuter*

End of the line for 'Thelma and Louise'

Toronto — Five months after jumping \$500,000 bail in Houston, two Americans known as "Thelma and Louise" have been arrested in Toronto. Joyce Carolyn Stevens, 31, and Rose Marie Turford, 36, wanted on charges of kidnapping and robbery, were held after police received an anonymous tip. Later, they were seen laughing in an immigration department car en route to a city detention centre. They were dubbed "Thelma and Louise" after the 1991 film of that name about two young women who go on a crime spree. *AP*

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Hidden treasure: Divers in an inflatable raft assist a crane at the port of Alexandria as it lifts a 2,000-year-old Greek statue of a woman's torso in red granite from the sea bed. Archaeologists hope to soon bring to the surface parts of the white marble

Photograph: AP

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مكتب العمل

laxed leadership

SCHOOLS

- Technology in Britain's 54,711 schools is patchy; few have independent links to the Internet. So BT's information superhighway would be invaluable.
- Children from around the world could work together on science – or Sartre.

COLLEGES

- Students would benefit from BT's technology, but most academics in Britain's 139 universities and 110 colleges of higher education are already on-line with a system named Janet, the Joint Academic Network.
- Janet is a government-funded system which links academics worldwide.
- SuperJanet has now been launched: a bigger and better multi-media version of Janet, BT's superhighway may seem slightly redundant.

LIBRARIES

- The 1995 Public Library Review recommended that the nation's 4,365 libraries should be connected to the information superhighway.
- Libraries have their own community information modules and PCs linking to the Internet. But the BT network would offer more extensive information to the public and would connect libraries nationwide.
- On-line interactive courses, based on the Open University model, would be available; computers would "teach" library users.

HOSPITALS

- 1,600 hospitals throughout Britain want access to SuperJanet and are worried that BT's network may be second class.
- An NHS-wide network – comparable with BT's superhighway – was scheduled for launch this autumn but has been delayed.
- Hospitals are determined to update their technology whether or not a Labour government comes to power.

BT'S ROLE

- It would cost BT an estimated £150m to create a high-capacity nationwide superhighway. Additional cost to link up hospitals, schools, libraries and colleges would then be nominal.
- A superhighway would provide multi-media services faster than possible with a PC, modem and phone line. These would include: two dozen TV channels, armchair shopping and banking, access to the Internet, access to business and video-conferencing.

Blair, BT and smoky e-fille bombs

By Andrew Horsman explains

Labour Party's sweetest deal on the superhighway is a mistake

There is more than a whiff of Blair in new Labour's plan with BT, whatever the distinctly high-tech, modern features of the increasingly controversial deal.

By giving in to BT's loud and long lobbying, and promising to allow the telephone giant into entertainment broadcasting by 2002 at the latest, Labour says it can meet its prime objectives in the development of an information superhighway: guaranteed access for schools, libraries, universities, hospitals and local authorities, provided free of charge by BT.

The aim, say Labour's young technocrats, is to avoid the creation of an information elite, able to pay for the privilege of membership in the information society, and an information ghetto, cut off from the network.

The goal is laudable but the method faulty. For a start it is oddly (and uncomfortably) reminiscent of the back-to-the-wall strategy that Labour won with the interventionist politicians of the Seventies, from which Labour has been retreating. Why should BT get special treatment? Admittedly it is a company of international repute, and provides proof to many of Labour's own traditional supporters that privatisation can work.

Second, BT has been lobbying for the right to compete in the cable television and telephone sectors. It has not yet decided to apply for a valuable licence in 2000. The Labour government is likely to let BT in eventually, probably as early as 2002, in Labour's own time.

Third, the way in which the deal is being sold, to the public, is increasingly of the restrictions around the turn of the century.

Rather than creating a policy framework in which the public knows the rules, and where firm regulation is married to open competition, Labour has opened its door to accusations that it is stitching

to talk to the cashiers, to see how they might improve the information superhighway model in our envisaged.

Labour is now putting its faith on the "done deal" argument that the rules will have to be changed in order to allow it to make concessions to terms to put in constituency. It now concedes that the marginal cost of linking up hospitals, schools and the like would be negligible next to the cost of building a national superhighway. It would spend billions on a

Moreover, Blair's speech

every time a school or hospital uses the service, just as it is for the opposition, how might it act in a telephone call. Small wonder that BT likes the idea.

Labour's central objective is political. It wants an information superhighway that reaches outwards, "steering" and less "rowing". The best way forward is to encourage members of the community to create the transparent and consistent environment in which the superhighway can operate efficiently but in which the non-market goals are equally respected.

But to do this, it must make its rules the same for all companies – giant BT, small telephone companies, provider, telephone, the operators of the cable

and the like. The new International

The changing face of Labour corporatism

1945-50: the nationalised state Britain. The government assumed strong direction over industry, allocating materials towards an expansion to fund borrowing from the US and reduce pressure on the pound. Nationalisation of gas, electricity, coal, steel, railways, and the road haulage industry, plus a consistent and legalistic

1950-70: the statist state. George Brown, Labour's deputy leader, pioneered partnership between government, employers and unions. Department of Economic Affairs created to co-ordinate national plan, which set out industrial sector growth targets. Ministry of Technology backed high-tech British champions. Government encouraged mergers, such as creation of British Leyland. Steel renationalised. Post Office turned

into a state corporation. Inflation crashed amid switch to decimalisation policy in 1966 to stave off balance of payments crisis.

1974-79: the social contract state: high inflation encouraged Government to co-operate with unions to implement incomes policy from 1975. In social contract, pay restraint matched with generous tax treatment of low-paid. Financial penalties threatened against employers who broke pay norms, controls placed on prices. Social contract broke down in 1978-79 winter of discontent. Aerospace, shipbuilding and British Leyland nationalised. National Enterprise Board state quango, bought stakes in companies.

1987: the broker state: Tony Blair is presiding over a big change in Labour policy. Unions would have much less influence

than previous Labour governments, but would have some say in the setting of the rate for the minimum wage.

This week Mr Blair indicated an important strategy would be to broker deals with industry leaders. He would regulate monopolies, clawing back windfall utility taxes where profits were judged excessive. He would also secure concessions from big industry as the price of a licence to operate in certain markets. The "broker state" would, for example, ensure public institutions were linked to the information superhighway in exchange for BT being allowed to break into television broadcasting.

Given high levels of government spending and control over health, education, social security and defence, there is plenty of further scope for brokered deals.

Jack O'Sullivan

years. As the experience with Mercury, the second telephone service provider, has already shown, it is virtually impossible to public service customers to compete with a monopoly – public or private. Cable, on the other hand, has been stealing 50,000 phone customers from BT every month, using lower prices and more flexible services as the bait – proof that regulation can enhance competition.

It is patently unfair to change the rules in mid-game. Cable operators sold shares to investors on the understanding that BT would be kept out of the entertainment market until at least 2001. Changes to that approach without close consultation with those affected, would seriously undermine investor confidence in the sector, and jeopardise its continued funding.

BT is keenly interested in having a precise timetable and less concerned (within reason) about exactly when it will be free to enter the now restricted market. It is the uncertainty about future regulation that most bothers BT management.

Finally, if there is to be one big market for telecommunications and broadcasting, with companies from either sector able to compete, then the current regulations are not enough. Rather than an Ofcom for telephony and an Independent Television Commission for broadcasting, Labour is surely on the right track with its suggestion of an Ofcom, an office to deal with all the competitive issues arising from the construction of an information superhighway.

The lesson? Fair regulation, consistently applied, must be better than stitch-ups in back rooms.

Wilkes's

Wilkes has been spending the past week as an "observer" at the Labour Party conference in Brighton, which concludes today with a rousing speech by John Prescott, and a choir. The New Labour leadership has been delighted by the success of its strategy to disprove the Philip Gould memorandum (suggesting the party was unfit to govern) by making this one of the dullest conferences since the bomb at the Grand Hotel. The leadership thought its cup would run over when it read that Arthur Scargill was contemplating leaving the party to form an Old Socialist Labour Party. However, the general joy was cut short by Dennis Skinner. The Beast of Bolsover went across to Tony Blair on the platform yesterday morning to break the news of the favour he'd done for the Labour leader: "I've stopped Arthur Scargill leaving the party..."

For once, the beaitic smile was wiped off Mr Blair's face.

Wilkes has been sharing oysters with Nicholas Badger, the Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, and Jerry Hayes, the Tory MP for Harrow, both also in Brighton as Labour conference observers. Perhaps it was the oysters, but Wilkes has been feeling like he had fallen into Alice Through the Looking Glass: all that was Right is Left and vice versa. Thus Mr Hayes has been telling his friends in the media that he has been attending the conference "as the token leftie". And Roy Hattersley was transformed from right-wing traditionalist into the darling of the Labour rank and file.

But Wilkes is happy to report that some things never change. Roy celebrated his personal triumph at the conference in fine style, dining in full view of the dispossessed in the window of Wheeler's Fish Restaurant in the Lanes.

Wilkes was invited as a guest of honour to the Brighton Races with Tony and Cherie Blair, John Prescott and Mr Prescott's delightful wife, Pauline, who knows a thing or two about racing, being a regular at Doncaster, another course run by the Labour local council. Wilkes decided to put his shirt on Naval Gazing. Mr Prescott advised against it. "We don't go in for naval gazing any more," he said. Needless to say, Naval Gazing romped home, and Wilkes collected £50 in winnings.

Kevin Keegan's meeting with Tony Blair on Monday had the Labour leader's aides beside themselves with glee. The Newcastle United manager, whose boss is John Hall, a friend of John Major, came as close as he dares to endorsing the Labour leader by describing Mr Blair as "a breath of fresh air". Then he played a blinder by agreeing to a photo opportunity for Kev and Tony to play head-tennis with a football. Just as the Blair Babes were saying "The boy done brilliant", Kev scored a bit of an own goal by asking for legislation to limit the price of football stadium tickets for fans travelling to away matches, to no more than they would be charged at home. This

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ingenious Keegan Bill would mean Geordies would pay £15 to see their team at Tottenham instead of £25. But it was too interventionist for the Blair camp. "Sounds like old Labour to me," said one senior Blair adviser. I don't think Mr Keegan is going to be consulted on policy in the future. He's too left-wing.

As Tony Blair looks younger, leaner and fitter, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is looking better than ever. Perhaps Wilkes has discovered the reason. The Shadow Chancellor has been so much in demand for dinner with the hacks, he has been doubling up. Started hosts have been told that Gordon has to leave sharp at 8.30 – because he has a second dinner. He is now known as "Two Dinners" by the media.

The passage of the Blair speech on Tuesday which won the biggest ovation was the well-crafted jibe at the Tories for wrapping themselves in the Union Jack while tearing to shreds the fabric of Britain. The author was Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary and former political editor of *Today*. Diligent readers may have spotted it used once before, in one of his columns for that newspaper.

Wilkes hears that Mr Campbell and his young turks also drew up a list of jokes for the Blair speech, including the Cantona crack about kicking the teeth in. Mr Prescott, the deputy leader, was invited to take his pick of some of the lines they could not fit in, but firmly informed the inner sanctum that he did not want any cast-off jokes for his closing speech today, thank you very much. Honest John is quite capable of thinking up his own.

Joy Johnson, the Labour leadership's press person in charge of rebutting false rumours had to rebut one about herself yesterday. Rumours even reached Conservative Central Office that she had threatened to resign after a tilt with Alastair Campbell about his gaffe in sending a fax to complain to the BBC about using OJ Simpson before the Blair speech on the TV news. All got up by the press, she said.

Wilkes will be joining the media caravan when it moves on to Blackpool this weekend to the Conservative Party conference. There, Conservative High Command will be pulling out all the stops to show that the party is united again. And the buzz around media bunker at Brighton is that the key social event of the week will be the return of Lord Archer's party. Yes, Jeffrey is back.

The resumption of the late-night supper party hosted by Lord Archer suggests that all is well again in the heart of the Major camp. But Wilkes can advise those seeking to gatecrash

Would you party with this man?

the VIP floor at the conference hotel that the best-selling author has what is known in the club business as a strict "door policy". Only Fleet Street's finest are admitted, and he is pretty choosy about the Conservatives he invites for Krug and shepherd's pie at midnight.

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, has decided to follow the example set by the sportsport organisers of the Last Night of the Proms, at which John Major shared a box with the BBC's John Birt. The Conservative Party conference agenda carries the following warning: "Balloons – under no circumstances can balloons be taken into the conference hall." Wilkes has no intention of letting such down, unpatriotic exhortations spoil his conference fun, you can be sure.



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Labour dials a wrong number

Labour is losing its competitive edge. Mr Blair's British Telecom "deal", announced on Tuesday, was extremely ill advised. Whether an exchange of favours between a putative future government and a monopolistic business, or simply a gimmick spin for conference on a sensible regulatory change, Mr Blair has sent a worrying signal to the British consumer.

It looks, on first sight, like a neat idea. Give BT access to new markets and in exchange, they will connect schools, hospitals and libraries to the so-called information superhighway for free. Good for BT, which can mount a challenge to the North American utility companies now cabling much of Britain, and good for consumers, since it brings more competition into a growing part of the telecoms market. Good, too, for schoolchildren, patients and library users, who may otherwise not have the funds to connect up to the knowledge revolution.

But it doesn't quite work like this. BT is being prevented from selling home entertainment services precisely because it did not get on with the job when it had the chance. Cable video is potentially a very lucrative area of business, but it is also an extremely expensive one to enter. Unless the cable companies had been given a period of protection, unthreatened by the better established BT, they would never have had the incentive to invest.

Those who favour grand industrial strategies devised in Whitehall will argue the case for granting BT special favours to avoid the risk of rival cable-layer's wasting money duplicating the network. A privileged BT, the argument runs, would have more chance of emerging a strong, international player. But this ignores strong evidence that companies mainly become world-beaters by being forced first to compete in their home markets.

The challenge for government is to ensure that the regulatory framework gov-

erning this fast-moving industry furthers at all times the interest of the consumer; that is the way to apply the pressure on the industry to become efficient.

This is not to say that the rules governing the cable video business should remain the same beyond 2002, when the current deal expires. BT almost certainly should be allowed to enter the market then, although that may require further action in the meantime to expose BT to additional competitive pressure in its other markets. The long-term aim is a free market through telecoms and broadcasting, with regulation only where the consumer interest requires it.

The problem is that Mr Blair presented this otherwise sensible regulatory change as a deal, an exemplary act of "new Labour, public and private working together".

So in place of beer and sandwiches with the trade unions, new Labour has wine and canapés with the bosses – still supporting producer interests rather than the little guy.

BT is apparently giving consumers something for free, but that is not what private sector corporations do: they earn profits for their shareholders and seek to use their influence with governments to maximise those profits. There is no such thing as a free telephone line.

Labour is in effect advocating a one-off boost to BT's monopoly power where some of the excess profits are used to do what the state wants, rather than allowing the regulator to ensure that this surplus is passed back to the consumer.

Mr Blair presumably thinks that the deal demonstrates the party's enthusiasm for working with the private sector. Yet it flies in the face of a promising trend in Labour's economic thinking in favour of promoting competition, attacking vested interests and standing up for the consumer. Mr Blair should ditch the BT deal, back customer power not big business, and, above all stop making policies on the hoof.



A day at the racist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting justice in jeopardy

From Mr Andrew Phillips

Sir: In your editorial "Nicole's killer is still free" (4 October) you argue that the televising of the Simpson trial may have been justified, if only because without it the "unreconstructed racism" of the Los Angeles police would "almost certainly" not have come to light. Even if one accepts that point (which I do not) it mistakes the purpose, and underestimates the inherent fallibility, of the trial process. That purpose is singular, namely to see justice done in the particular case.

It is difficult enough to achieve, and to burden any trial with secondary considerations of justice for a class (however much they may deserve it) or a cause (however meritorious) is to jeopardise justice in the case. That undermines justice generally, particularly where half the world is looking on.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PHILLIPS
Bates, Wells & Braithwaite
(Solicitors)
London, EC1
4 October

There is no better way to succeed in a quest for truth than by rigorously testing conflicting versions of an event or an analysis. The coroner's inquest is the oldest inquisitorial legal process in Britain, there being no "sides" in the proceedings. Yet, whenever there are *de facto* oppositional accounts of a death (eg where a trade union and employer have different accounts of a workplace death), the coroner's search for truth is facilitated by the evidence elicited from witnesses by the questions of counsel for either "side".

Juries in the United States, as well as here, sometimes reach a verdict on evidence not legally relevant to the case. That is precisely why, in the US, so much time and money is spent on jury selection. In Britain, the acquittals of Clive Ponting, Cynthia Payne, and Pottic and Randle were all legally perverse. If the Simpson jury was using its power to reject the prosecution's case because it saw the Los Angeles police as dishonest and racist, it would be exercising an established constitutional right.

The exercise of democracy, even microscopically by a jury, can very disturbing results for those who are complacent about the state of society.

GARY SLAPPER
The Law School
Staffordshire University
Stoke-on-Trent
4 October

Myth of the New Statesman's 'golden age'

From Mr Godfrey Hodgson

Sir: As an associate editor of the *New Statesman* at the time when Bruce Page was editor, may I correct the myth which seems to be taking root about that magazine. This holds that there was a golden age under the editorships of Paul Johnson, Richard Crossman and Anthony Howard, and that this prelapsarian idyll was ruined by Bruce Page's "batty" ideas.

The truth is that the real golden age ended with the end of newsprint shortage. Circulation fell like a stone during the editorships of Messrs Johnson and Howard, and continued to fall after Bruce Page left. The paper was losing money (offset by the income from investments made in earlier, more prosperous times) when Page took over. By enormous personal efforts and with the help of a truly remarkable staff, which included Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Duncan Campbell, David Caute, Anna Coote, Christopher Hitchens and Francis

Wheen, Bruce Page was the only editor who succeeded temporarily in arresting the circulation decline.

Right or wrong, Bruce's conception was that the commercial prospects were limited for a magazine offering 1,200-word essays, however talented their writers. Instead he tried, very hard and with considerable success, to create a professional magazine that might inject some factual reporting into discussions in Labour circles. The project failed, but that does not mean that it was "batty".

Yours sincerely,
GODFREY HODGSON
Oxford
5 October

From Mr Bruce Page
Sir: James Fenton ("Statesman staggers from crisis to crisis", 2 October) asks why political magazines of the right thrived more readily than those of the left. The answer is that comfortable ideas are easier to sell than uncom-

fortable ones, and the main idea of the right – which is that giving the poor more money doesn't aid them – is a real winner.

It would help, of course, if those who favour the left kept their own ideas in order. Mr Fenton writes that in 1978, when he and I competed for the editorship, "the paper owned its building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, had money in the bank, and made, as a company, an operating profit".

The paper made an operating loss. This was subsidised out of investment income, which had been built up during the days when the paper itself did make a profit. It may have been too late, by 1978, to re-create that commercial success. But I still think it was worthwhile to try: it might have been worthwhile for the *New Statesman* board to have tried a little harder.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE PAGE
London, EC2
2 October

versity Press published a monograph of mine on the Hellenistic kingdom of Pergamum. No one else could have published it; nor could OUP if Germaine Greer had her way. Yet I am told there are people who find it useful. I am sure this is equally true of the many other books only the university presses are able to consider, and long may it continue.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ALLEN
Edinburgh
3 October

From Ms Bronwen Cunningham
Sir: As well as scrapping the Net Book Agreement, my publishers have also scrapped another tiresome agreement – the Pay Authors What We Own agreement. The latest royalties account from my publishers, £7.24 on 50 copies sold in Australia, is marked "too small to pay". Not too small to receive, I assure you. Is this common practice?

Yours sincerely,
BRONWEN CUNNINGHAM
Petworth, West Sussex
1 October

Charitable charade of academia

From Mr Peter Michael Johns

Sir: I fear that Conrad Russell (Letters, 3 October) has himself fallen victim to the fallacy that university presses exist purely for the advancement of scientific knowledge.

Oxford University Press has for many years published student textbooks. It recently acquired the textbook list of Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Among the titles on that list is one of the leading introductory economics textbooks, of which it has published a new edition in 1996 using four-colour production in the text.

University presses have paid five-figure royalty advances not big in the Martin Amis or Jeffrey Archer stakes, but commercial publishing in anyone's terms. The real danger is that they will match the pattern in the US market where royalty advances as high as \$80,000 have been offered by some university presses. Acquisitions, introductory texts, large royalty advances: this is not the world of university press publishing described by Professor Russell.

Allowing lobbyists free access to our legislators and civil servants opens the possibility of manipulation, and to distorted legislation and policy. We should not, without regulation, allow the lobbying industry to bend and manipulate our laws and policies.

Formal rules on gaining access, declarations of interest, and clear open formalised statutory consultation are the solution. Otherwise, we the majority will increasingly be held hostage to private and special interests exercising their democratic rights.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY MORRITT
London, W14
2 October

I do not object to the principle of university presses acting in an aggressive, commercial manner. It does, however, seem absurd to provide them with the support of subsidy from the taxpayer. The university presses seem to relish operating in the market. I suggest the playing field should be levelled so that commercial publishers can challenge them on equal terms in the market.

Germaine Greer correctly identifies a problem: the charade is even more grotesque than her description.

Yours sincerely,
PETER JOHNS
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire
3 October

From Mr Robert Allen

Sir: Germaine Greer's criticisms of the university presses make no sense. If she wants more people to read books, it cannot be right to tax them. Books are not ordinary commodities, any more than food or children's shoes are.

In the Eighties, Oxford Uni-

Fare's fair

From Mr Knowles Mitchell

Sir: Comments attributed to me by your Transport Correspondent (4 October), in connection with fare increases came, in fact, from my senior press officer, Ross Mackie. The new charges were subject to full consultation with the statutory rail user committees. Passengers' interest is well represented by the user committees, who are publicly challenging unreasonable increases at a time when disclosure of changes would no longer risk giving a commercial advantage to another transport operator.

An important feature of our fare changes is that the price of our most heavily discounted ticket, Apex, has been held and its availability has been extended to more places. Increases in the cost of first-class travel was preceded by a range of service enhancements, including complimentary drinks, free newspapers and books.

Yours sincerely,

KNOWLES MITCHELL

Public Affairs Manager

Great Western

Swindon

Early AZT trials

From Dr Stephen Cameron

Sir: Steve Connor's Saturday Story (30 September), in connection with the Delta trial of anti-HIV drugs taken in combination, made some remarks about the 1993 Concorde AZT trial that might mislead your readers into thinking there are no benefits to be had from AZT. The Concorde trial was designed to see if therapy with AZT, initiated early in the course of HIV-disease, when individuals are symptom-free, could extend the benefit of an increase in survival of 12 to 18 months, seen when AZT is taken later.

The trial failed to find any advantage to early prescription, but this does not mean that AZT is not of benefit to Aids patients. Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN CAMERON

London, NW1

In the Eighties, Oxford Uni-

Blair's dream

From Dr J. D. Fox

Sir: Tony Blair conjures up a dream of a computer in every classroom. Why do so many believe in salvation through information technology?

Computers are very useful in many ways, but their impact in education has been mixed. Much software in use is dull, limited and inflexible. In the classrooms, the brainpower, flexibility and creative power of human teachers far outstrip the capacity of computers.

So by all means put more computers in the classroom, Mr Blair. But don't forget to provide training opportunities for teachers, more coursework for students, more time for thinking carefully about how to control it. For, if we don't, maybe one day we will find it has enslaved us.

Yours faithfully,

JEREMY FOX

School of Modern Languages
and European Studies
UEA Norwich
University of East Anglia
Norwich

4 October

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

ties and prejudices that people from ethnic minorities face in securing jobs. We should not be making it more difficult for them. The level of unemployment among ethnic minority groups in some of Britain's largest cities is one of the most significant social problems we face.

It is also a fact that most illegal immigrants who have jobs do not in any case work in the formal labour market. They tend to work in the cash-in-hand, informal economy where not too many questions are asked and nothing is put down on paper. Mr Howard's proposals would have little impact on this sector.

His plans could, however, increase the pressure on many legal black and Asian British citizens into taking these low-paid, irregular jobs if employers in the formal economy take one look at them and turn them away.

So Mr Howard is advocating draconian and ill-considered action against what, in numerical or any other terms, is not a significant problem, compared to the levels of illegal immigration with which countries such as the United States and Germany cope. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that Mr Howard's real intent is to play the race card in the approach to next week's Conservative Party conference. There is no place for this kind of politics in Britain.

Mrs Shephard knows that if employers face criminal sanctions for not checking job applicants, they will simply devise the easiest method of rejecting potential illegal immigrants. That will be to turn away anyone with a black face.

Mrs Shephard is right. Given his long experience in government, Mr Howard must already know the difficult

you are no longer needed and you return to your office to find your desk cleared.

The reason they gave for their action was that I did not represent the views of the diocese. Then the Archdeacon of the East Riding said that as a liberal he felt very isolated in the diocese – which is hardly consistent with their earlier reasoning. So I can only take this as a personal slight. The only issue on which they might have felt that I would not represent their views is my opposition to women priests – but that is a dead issue, and I have given pastoral care to women priests in our diocese.

This action will not silence me. In fact, it leaves me a lot of gaps in my diary to be filled. I think it shows all of us who are traditionalists that we are not as accepted as some people would like to suggest. Marginalisation is a certainty for many of us in the future. The ironic thing is that the traditionalist view is the view of the ordinary person in the congregation. And the liberals will find that they do not have the ordinary person on their side.

This business has confirmed in my mind that however dirty national politics are, they have something to learn from the church. But I remain an Anglican because that is what I am – God remains in the church, and we sometimes have to put up with these local difficulties.

This refusal hurt almost more than the first decision. It is rather like redundancy, when you are told abruptly that

The writer is Archdeacon of York

obituaries/gazette

Robert Hamilton

Robert Hamilton had several successive and partly overlapping careers, as an imperial civil servant, a scholar and a museum administrator.

Hamilton's father had served in India and Robert Hamilton was Inspector and the Director of Antiquities in the Palestine of the British mandate, where he resided almost continuously between 1929 and the end of the mandate in 1948. He created the British archaeological centre in Baghdad, often returned on various missions to Iraq or Palestine, and was offered the post of Director of Antiquities of Iraq in 1961, but turned it down.

My last exchange of letters with Hamilton brought back a memory of his official functions in the 1930s. I had received a letter from Germany that had been sent to an American friend, another Robert Hamilton, who had been, during his lifetime, a part-time archaeologist. The letter sought information about a German archaeologist who had excavated in Palestine before the Second World War and who was, I believe, killed on the Russian front.

I remembered that the British Robert Hamilton had once told me that, at the beginning of the war, in 1939, he had sequestered the belongings of that archaeologist and discovered a sizeable cache of arms and a lot of Nazi propaganda. I do not know what Hamilton wrote to a correspondent unknown to both of us, but I do know that he answered the letter a month or two before his death.

This trivial anecdote illustrates the inevitability of certain ways of knowing other people, especially from foreign lands, among those who held positions of trust and responsibility in a world-wide net of service to the Crown.

Hamilton studied the classics at Oxford, learnt Arabic, became an "excavating" archaeologist as well as an admirable student of single monuments to be rescued from time or men. He was also a remarkable draughtsman and water-colourist; I was convinced for years that he had been trained as an architect, because his reconstructions as well as the copies he made of finds are both striking in technique and imaginative in evoking long-lost buildings or any part of them.

His scholarly contributions fall into two main groups. There are the learned disquisitions on individual monuments he helped renovate or preserve. Such is *The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem* (1947), a guidebook with a brilliant discussion of the mosaics of the

church that went against the commonly accepted wisdom of the time and that aroused some further disagreements, but which found partial confirmation in recent investigations.

This part of his contribution was printed in smaller script, and he warned unsuspecting readers away from what he thought was overly technical for casual tourists. Another basically monographic instance is the remarkable *Southern History of the Aqsa Mosque* (1949), relentless in the pursuit of details, unforgiving to anyone skipping even a line, but ultimately revealing the complexities of one of the most frequently rebuilt works of Islamic architecture.

Some of his conclusions were accepted, others were not, and he himself continued to debate the issues with himself and with whoever felt strong enough to challenge him.

Constant returns to his own work characterised even more Hamilton's long-standing involvement with Khirbat al-Mafjar, the most spectacular of the Umayyad "palaces", located in the Jordan valley just north of Jericho, a complex rich in mosaics, paintings, sculptures, and truly unique architectural compositions. Hamilton and Dimitri Barankin were involved in an excavation of many years that eventually led to some friction between the two, which Hamilton regretted a great deal.

Eleven years after the end of the British mandate, in 1959, Hamilton's masterful presentation of the site was published in unusually lavish ways for a work entitled *Khirbat al-Mafjar*. It should always be read together with several important articles dealing with various parts of the building and its decoration. What is important is not merely that Khirbat al-Mafjar is the only true early Islamic palace to be published, but that Hamilton never ended his affair with it. In several articles, and then in *Walid and his Friends* (1988), he kept answering occasional critics, refuting explanations by others which seemed wrong to him (in-

cluding my own), and returning to the palace and to the prince he saw as its creator. In his last scholarly book, Hamilton, now a quiet and polite octogenarian, managed to bring his hero to life as an translator in very direct English al-Walid's often ribald and lascivious poetry.

It was my privilege, as a very young student, to participate with Hamilton in the investigation of Khirbat al-Mafjar after the end of formal excavations and I remember vividly the warmth of his welcome in Oxford where my wife and I had stopped on our way to Jordan.

I especially remember the quality of the notes he (and others) had left in the archives of the Palestine Archaeological Museum, in Jerusalem (now the Rockefeller Museum). In albums and boxes there were (and I suppose still are) stored drawings, photographs, observations of all sorts on Mafjar and on many other Palestinian remains by a man of intelligent devotion to his task who had become fascinated by the early Islamic period and the personages of the seventh and eighth centuries, under whose leadership or in whose lifetime the political structure of the Mediterranean changed irretrievably. He saw them as the weak but loveable libertines that many of them were, but he loved them for the wonderful places they had created.

Robert Hamilton was also a successful administrator, not only in Palestine, but later in Oxford, where he directed from 1962 to 1972 the Ashmolean Museum, where he was also Keeper of the Department of Antiquities and handled successfully problems typical of venerable institutions. He was, too, a family man who could hardly be dissociated from his wife Hetty and his children. His functions required long absences from home, and the letters he published in 1992 (*Letters from the Middle East by an Occasional Archaeologist*) are a beautiful testimony to a creative and useful life, well spent.

Oleg Grabar

Robert William Hamilton, archaeologist, born 26 November 1905; Chief Inspector of Antiquities, Palestine 1931-38; Director of Antiquities 1938-48; Secretary-Librarian, British School of Archaeology, Iraq 1948-59; Senior Lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology, Oxford 1949-56; Keeper of Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum 1956-72; Keeper 1962-72, Fellow, Magdalen College, Oxford 1959-72; FBA 1960; married 1935 Hetty Lowick (three sons, two daughters); died 25 September 1995.



Hamilton: a life well spent
Photograph: Richard Reckham



Maurice demonstrating the 'Wolf light', a rechargeable safety lamp capable of being dropped from a 10-storey building without breaking

Monica Maurice

I recently spoke on the telephone to Monica Maurice in her office at the Wolf Safety Lamp Company, the Sheffield-based specialists in safety lighting engineering, with a worldwide reputation second to none. On that occasion her son, John Jackson (my twin brother), now managing director, and her grandson, a graduate in design engineering, were poring over a technical problem with her. Her father, William Maurice, founder of the company, who purchased the business rights from Friemann and Wolf of Saxony in 1910, would have been proud to know that three further generations were thriving as a result of his vision and insight.

Yet it was not easy for Monica Maurice, who on her own, after her father's death in 1951 and with the aftermath of the Second World War, had to restructure and rebuild lost markets and demands. The company has now changed almost beyond recognition. No more flame lamps or acid batteries are now made by the company. The intense noise of the fly presses, the scream of turbine wheels and the clank of blanking machines from the shop floor have given way to the production of the 'Wolf light', a light portable, rechargeable hand lamp with the power of a motor-car headlamp, that could be dropped from a 10-storey

building and would not break. Monica Maurice was brought up in the industrial north Midlands, the eldest of three daughters all of whom were educated at Bedales. She had a talent for languages and design and studied at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and at Hamburg University in the late Twenties. Even as a young girl there was a steady determination to be successful.

Her long and distinguished career started in February 1930, first as secretary to her father at the company, then as a trainee with the old parent company in Zwickau. This was the first of many visits to Germany throughout the Thirties. On one occasion she wandered into a restricted zone and saw what she thought was a guidance system. This she reported to the British authorities on her return, but they were not interested. At the outbreak of war though, she was summoned to London for a three-day debriefing. All this experience, her knowledge of technical German and her familiarity with many of the industrial sites proved invaluable.

In 1947, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, she participated in a British intelligence overseas survey mission to Germany to determine the extent and subsequent recovery in certain specialised industries. During this visit her party were reporting their arrival at a town near Cologne when an arrogant young British captain dismissed their request for accommodation and supplies. Monica Maurice came forward and quietly suggested that she might be forced to pull rank and suddenly rooms were available in the local hotel, as well as fuel and rationing. It was only recently that the fascinating and revealing diary made on her visit to Germany was discovered and it is the family's hope to publish this, together with other of her papers.

She married a Canadian doctor, Arthur Jackson, in 1938, and by the mid-Fifties was ferrying three children to and from Bedales, where she was a governor for eight years. These journeys were made in a wonderful Mark VI Bentley and were a joy to her children often clutching large baskets of cherries procured from the Thames Valley roadside.

Monica Maurice's passion for cars and planes was insatiable. She learnt to drive the family Singer Swallow at Park Grange, the family home overlooking Sheffield. By the Thirties she had graduated to a Daimler 10/60 track model chain-gang Frazer Nash with which she would race her friend Joy Davison. Both were members of the York Aviation Flying Club at Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, some 40 miles away. The plan was that they would

breakfast at Park Grange, then set off each in their own cars.

The Frazer Nash was small, nimble and light with tremendous acceleration, so that Maurice would have a good lead by the time she joined the Great North Road. But on the first sections of the last 10 miles Davison's huge powerful car would haul in the Frazer Nash so that they would arrive at the clubhouse together.

By the late Thirties Monica Maurice drove a Brough Superior Drophead Tourer and raced one of the works' Brough supercharged hill-climbing cars.

She moved on to a pre-war BMW 327, and after the Bentley came a wonderful primrose yellow DB2 Mk III Aston Martin with a works engine which one could hear coming from miles away.

Her later years were spent at peace in the tranquil village of Ashford in the Water in the Peak District of Derbyshire, where she enjoyed regular visits from family, friends and most of all her grandchildren whom she adored.

William Jackson

Helen Monica Maurice, lamp manufacturer; born 30 June 1908; managing director, Wolf Safety Lamp Company 1951-79; chairman 1951-88; OBE 1975; married 1938 Arthur Jackson (two sons, one daughter); died 20 September 1995.

Professor Andrew Wilkinson

Andrew Wilkinson, Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, in London, and former President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, was a man who was large in every way - in his physique, in his enjoyment of life and in his contributions to surgery.

Wilkinson was a product of the Edinburgh University Medical School and the Edinburgh School of Surgery. After specialising in surgery he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1942 to 1946. He returned to Edinburgh to the Department of Surgery, and then moved to Aberdeen as Senior Lecturer in 1953.

In 1958, he was appointed the first Nuffield Professor of Paediatric Surgery at Great Ormond Street - the first chair of Paediatric Surgery in the United Kingdom. Wilkinson's paediatric surgical experience in Edinburgh and Aberdeen differed considerably from that of his new and highly specialised colleagues, but his extensive general experience and his contributions to research enabled him to establish firmly the reputation of his new department. He gathered round him trainees from Europe, Scandinavia, the Far East, Australia and North and South America.

Having served on the Executive Committee of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, Wilkinson was elected President for 1971 and 1972, and played a leading part in the formation of the Specialist Advisory Committee for Paediatric Surgery in the Joint Committee for Higher Specialist Training.

He was an honorary member of many overseas Surgical Associations and a loyal supporter of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; he was elected to Council in 1964 and served until 1973, when he became Vice-President, and in 1976 was elected President. His presidency was a time of important developments in the college, among them the introduction of a searching assessment at the end of specialist training and the expansion of the college's facilities for Education and Training.

Wilkinson is perhaps best remembered as a stimulating teacher, both at the bedside and in the operating theatre, of undergraduate and of post-graduate trainees. His formal lectures, like his after-dinner speeches, were meticulously prepared and delivered.

Alan C. B. Dean and James Lister

Andrew Wood Wilkinson, surgeon; born 19 April 1914; Simey Surgical Fellowship, Edinburgh University 1946-49; Senior University Clinical Tutor in Surgery 1946-51; Lecturer in Surgery 1951-53; Senior Lecturer in Surgery, Aberdeen University; and Assistant Surgeon, Royal Infirmary and Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children 1953-58; Surgeon, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street 1958-95; Nuffield Professor of Paediatric Surgery; Institute of Child Health 1958-79 (Emeritus); Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons 1965; President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh 1976-79; CBE 1979; married 1941 Joan Sharp (deceased; two sons, two daughters); died Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright 18 August 1995.

Jack Holt

Jack Holt was one of a vanishing breed of racehorse trainers.

Always based some distance away from the main training centres of Newmarket and Lambourn, he operated from Linworth Down, near Basingstoke, and established a reputation as a very shrewd placer of horses, especially sprint handicappers.

Holt's father, Leo, who trained at Gatwick, in Sussex, was controversially warned off the Turf in the late Forties. Jack had assisted him from the age of 13, and rode three winners as an amateur before taking out a li-

cence to train himself in 1949. He dined out regularly on the story of those early days. Taking a push-bike, he cycled to Petersfield, and rented a field where he trained a handful of horses. He had one saddle and some £40 to his name. He cracked out the inmates and rode them in all their exercise. His first winner, King Rebel, came at the now defunct Wye racecourse in May 1950.

From then on he progressed steadily, never having a lot of horses in his care but always finding the right opportunities for them. For many years he

concentrated on jumpers, enjoying his greatest success when Stepherton won the George Dulier Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 1965-66. Holt backed him at 100-9, buying a new car and paying a year's bills with the winnings.

He abandoned National Hunt racing when a favourite hurdler belonging to his wife, Ann, was killed in action. The move to Linworth Down came in the mid-Sixties, and Holt soon demonstrated that he was equally adept on the Flat. Most of his winners were sprinters, but in 1970 he sent out a charismatic middle-

distance mare called Quortina to win five races in a row at the Windsor evening meetings. The Windsor executive named a race in her honour - it is still run today - and Quortina returned to win it in 1972.

Holt's sprinters did him proud year after year. He began with a fast horse, Epsom Imp, and many years later came close to winning the race he prized above almost any other, the Stewards Cup at Goodwood, with both Coppermill Lad and Duplicity. The latter was backed down from 66-1 in 1992 in the 24 hours before the event, and

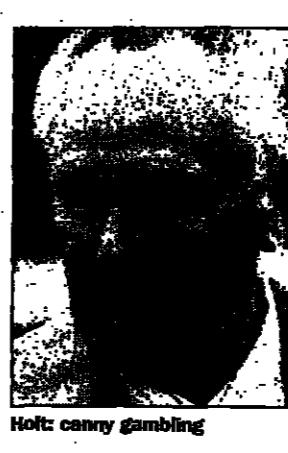
found only the flying filly Locksong too good. Holt loved handicappers, but also trained the high-class two-year-olds Saturday Monday and, arguably his best horse, Argentum.

Jack Holt was an immensely likeable, straightforward man. In these days of huge strings, millionaire owners, and inaccessible trainers, Holt had no difficulty in retaining the common touch. Complete strangers would come up to him at the races and inquire about his chances that day. I have seen him stop what he was doing and answer every question in detail.

He was a clever trainer, and undoubtedly the cleverest of gamblers when one of his charges was "right", but there was nothing secretive about him. In all his years in a fiercely competitive sport, where making enemies is not difficult, no one had a hard word to say about him.

Several of the wiliest trainers of the post-war era were based not far away from his Basingstoke yard - Les Hall, R.C. Sandy, the great Bill Wiggin. Holt easily stood comparison with any of them, and there is no higher praise than that.

Ian Carnaby



Holt: canny gambler

Leonard John Holt, racehorse trainer; born 28 September 1928; married; died 3 October 1995.

Killing of IRA suspects breached right to life

LAW REPORT

6 October 1995

The ECHR said that article 2 ranked as one of the most fundamental provisions in the Convention. The permitted "use of force" must be no more than "absolutely necessary".

The court did not find it established that there was an execution plot at the highest level of command or that the soldiers had been instructed or

convinced by security forces to use their weapons or detonate the bomb.

On 6 March 1988 Sean Savage was seen parking a car in Gibraltar and then seen with Daniel McCann and Mairead Farrell and Sean Savage.

McCann and Farrell had been shot and killed by British troops in a raid on a house in the town of El Alamein, in the south of the city.

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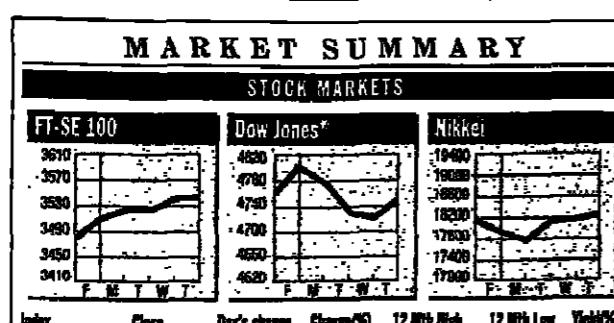
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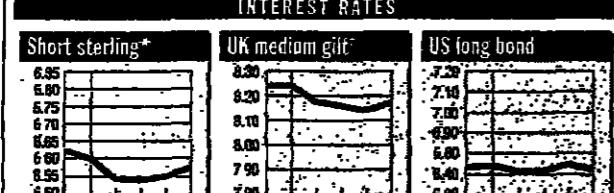
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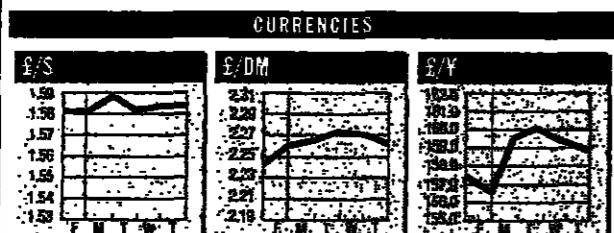
| Index | Close | Day's change | Change (p.p.) | 12 Wk High | 12 Wk Low | YTD %Chg |
|--------------|---------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| FTSE 100 | 3544.4 | +0.3 | +0.0 | 3570.8 | 2943.4 | 4.0 |
| FTSE 250 | 3591.3 | +7.5 | +0.2 | 3591.3 | 3300.9 | 3.4 |
| FTSE 350 | 1771.5 | +0.8 | +0.1 | 1778.3 | 1477.0 | 3.9 |
| FT Small Cap | 1757.5 | +1.7 | +0.1 | 1933.1 | 1678.6 | 3.3 |
| FT All-Share | 1750.8 | +0.9 | +0.1 | 1749.8 | 1490.8 | 3.8 |
| New York * | 4749.0 | +8.3 | +0.2 | 4801.8 | 3674.6 | 2.4 |
| Tokyo | 18223.4 | +75.3 | +0.4 | 20148.8 | 14485.4 | 0.8 |
| Hong Kong | 9888.0 | -51.9 | -0.5 | 9940.0 | 6967.8 | 3.3 |
| Frankfurt | 2208.8 | -8.9 | -0.4 | 2317.0 | 1911.0 | 2.0 |
| Paris | 1800.3 | -3.6 | -0.2 | 2017.3 | 1721.8 | 3.8 |
| Milan | 9765.0 | -13.0 | -0.1 | 10911.0 | 9265.0 | 2.0 |

* Dow Jones Index at 1500 hours / Dow Jones graph at 1300 hours

| MAIN PRICE CHANGES | | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts) | | | | | | |
| Index | Price(p) | Change(p) | %Chg | Falls | Price(p) | Change(p) |
| Boddington Group | 358 | 85 | 31.6 | Transport Dev | 194.5 | 11 |
| McBride | 200 | 11 | 5.8 | British Steel | 175.25 | 7.75 |
| Vaux Group | 300 | 15 | 5.3 | Eurotunnel Units | 92 | 3 |
| Whitbread | 30 | 1.5 | 5.3 | Enterprise Oil | 347 | 10 |
| Amstrad | 268.5 | 12.5 | 4.9 | BSkyB | 388.5 | 11 |



| Money Market Rates | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Bond Yields * | | | | | | |
| Index | 1 Month | 1 Year | Medium Bond (9) | Year Ago | Long Bond | 04 Year Ago |
| UK | 6.68 | 6.66 | 8.00 | 6.90 | 8.19 | 8.72 |
| US | 5.75 | 5.81 | 6.10 | 7.75 | 6.44 | 7.94 |
| Japan | 0.34 | 0.31 | 2.72 | 4.59 | 3.40 | 4.95 |
| Germany | 4.00 | 4.00 | 5.55 | 7.76 | 7.24 | 8.17 |



| OTHER INDICATORS | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Dollar | | | | | | |
| Yesterday | Change | Year Ago | Yesterday | Change | Year Ago | |
| Yesterday | Day's chg | Year Ago | Index | Latest | Yr Ago | Next Figs |
| Oil Brent S | 15.62 | -5.36 | 16.83 | RPI | 149.9 | 3.8pc |
| Gold \$ | 383.25 | +80.75 | 392.70 | GDP | - | -2.8pc |
| Gold £ | 242.03 | +30.48 | 247.39 | Base Rates | - | -6.75pc |

Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

Dollar sharply down

The dollar fell sharply in late London trading, falling below £1.00. After an initial mid-afternoon decline of a penny to DM1.425 it then tumbled by a yen to ¥99.60. According to Kit Juckes, currency strategist at NatWest Markets, concerns about weak US job growth were worrying the market. The consensus is for a growth of 150,000 non-farm jobs in September following the increase of 249,000 in August. US jobless claims rose by 6,000 to 341,000 last week, according to the Labour Department, less than the market had been expecting.

More Germans unemployed

Unemployment rose by 14,000 in West Germany and vacancies fell for the fifth month running. The unexpected increase in the jobless count is a further indication of the weakness of the economy in the last few months and the pressure on employers from high labour costs to economise on staff.

Scots lift Manweb stake

Scottish Power bought a further 1.1 million shares in Manweb, bringing its stake in the regional firm to 28 per cent. The hostile bid for Manweb by the Scottish group closes today and is the first contested bid for a major UK utility to reach this stage.

Hambros wins £1bn Siemens deal

Hambros, the merchant bank, has been chosen by Siemens of Germany to arrange the financing for the £1bn-plus project to build a chip plant in the north-east of England. This will be the biggest ever single inward investment in Britain.

Fall in UK housing starts

There were 14,000 new housing starts in August. In the three months to August, 45,400 dwellings were begun in Great Britain, down 3 per cent on the previous three months and 15 per cent lower than the same period in 1994.

\$24m Mexican deal for Northumbria

Northumbrian Water has agreed to acquire 40 per cent of Gema, a Mexican environmental company, for \$24m. Two directors of the UK firm will be appointed to the board of Gema, which in 1993 had sales of \$850m. The move comes as Northumbrian awaits a possible bid from Lyonnaise des Eaux of France.

SFO will not go to court today

The Serious Fraud Office has decided against going to court today in an effort to drop eight summonses brought against Nick Leeson by a group of Barings bond-holders. Earlier in the week the SFO asked the court whether there was time available for a hearing and was told that it could have had a hearing today. The SFO wants to take over the private prosecution from the bond-holders and halt it.

Daiwa offices searched

Officers from the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan searched the Tokyo and Osaka offices of Daiwa Bank following the loss of \$1.1bn through fraudulent bond trading in New York. The investigation focused on the bank's administrative management systems and risk management systems, a ministry official said.

Bankers Trust accused in \$195m 'rip-off' lawsuit

DAVID USBORNE

New York

The Bankers Trust of New York found itself engulfed yesterday in a maelstrom of allegations of fraud and systematic corruption in its derivatives division with the long-awaited publication of court filings against the bank in a multi-million-dollar lawsuit by Procter & Gamble.

The company escalated its assault against the bank last month, when it added racketeering and corruption charges to its suit. Original plans by the financial magazine *Business Week* to publish the documents and tapes, obtained by P&G from Bankers through the legal discovery process, were blocked by a Detroit judge who sealed them. The papers were sealed this week, however, and extracts are to be carried in the magazine's cover story due on newsstands.

Based in Cincinnati, P&G is claiming \$195.5 million in damages from the Bank, which it alleged was deliberately misled the company on the risks involved in derivatives purchased from it. P&G took a \$102 million after-tax charge on losses sustained on its Bankers Trust derivatives.

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COMMENT

"It is a strange logic that argues that the number of players has to be substantially reduced to give competition a chance but in the Alice in Wonderland world of electricity companies, it may actually be true."

Those who believe that things might be about to settle down in the electricity business after the last six months of hectic activity had better think again. A whole new raft of takeovers and alliances is under consideration – including, if the usually reliable rumour mill is correct, a second regional electricity company takeover by Scottish Power and the merger of East Midlands and Yorkshire. This is a party that shows no signs of abating, until the neighbours complain and send Inspector Lang to turn the music off.

The only obvious constraint is just how much consolidation the Government is prepared to allow. As things stand, the industry is divided into 19 moving parts – 12 regional electricity companies, 2 gencos, 2 Scottish power companies, two state-owned nuclear companies and one in Northern Ireland. All the bids to go through so far have been by outsiders and therefore do not involve any reduction in the number of players. That is about to change.

Provided Marwell shareholders do not lose their sanity by opting to remain independent (the sad and lonely fate of Northern Electric should deter them), Scottish Power becomes today the first to achieve a consolidating takeover. Government clearance of the National Power and PowerGen bids will reduce the players by a further two but this is still a long way from the consolidation industry executives believe would produce optimum efficiency and competition.

It is a strange logic that argues that the

number of players has to be substantially reduced to give competition a chance but in the Alice in Wonderland world of electricity companies, it may be true. Nobody believes the regional electricity companies as they stand have the will or the guts to start paying any more than lip-service to competition in domestic supply post its official introduction in 1996. But a smaller number of more powerful players – ministers have signed off on six – might do the trick.

The more aggressive in the industry see it settling down into four or five majors with perhaps as many also-rans. The race to become one of the big four must involve a new wave of consolidation. While Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, appears to accept the inevitability and desirability of this, what is happening is a fundamental reshaping of the industry, which requires a more penetrating public debate than we have seen. The case for referring National Power and PowerGen grows stronger.

Going back to basics after Bankers Trust,

It is becoming hard to tell which is worst – the sales technique of Bankers Trust or the naive way in which Procter & Gamble, one of America's biggest and toughest companies, fell into the derivatives trap.

Papers released by a US court this week give a unique insight into the atmosphere in-

side a deal-driven bank whose staff did not seem to care a fig about whether its products were right for the client, as long as they made a profit selling them.

The language revealed by the documents – such as the ROP (or Rip-Off Factor) – should join "greed is good" and the rest of the brutal epithets of the 1980s in Wall Street's over-the-top lexicon of shame. BT will have a hard time repairing the damage done to its image by these disclosures and may find it wiser to settle out of court than see its affairs become the financial media equivalent of the OJ trial.

The papers do not show P&G in too good a light as a customer, either, judging by initial extracts. Erik Nelson, chief financial officer, told P&G's audit committee that no worst-case scenarios were tested to see what would happen if interest rates took off. "We were betting that the financial markets wouldn't move against us. This, too, ran contrary to our policy of knowing our risks up front ... our judgement was clouded by the belief that rates wouldn't rise quickly and that we understood the pricing formula, when in fact we didn't."

Derivatives remain an essential tool for modern business. It must be tempting for regulators to say "a plague on both your houses" and let the players get on with it. With large corporate clients, at least, more detailed regulation is unlikely to be the answer. At one level, the simplest lesson is that management must go back to basics,

ensuring that sales staff do not regard customers as turkeys for the plucking. How else do you persuade them to come back again as clients? These are disciplines that apply as much to toothpaste salesmen as to the purveyors of the products of Wall Street rocket scientists.

Customers such as P&G – big grown-up companies – have no excuse either for not having the management systems to control risks and the nous to avoid the temptation to take a punt on interest rates at the wrong moment. Above all, they must learn to understand the products.

Fault lines facing G7 ministers

This has been a year in which the markets have presented challenge after challenge to the international financial community. The orthodox view, which will be heard again in Washington as the Group of Seven finance ministers assemble for tomorrow's meeting, is that although the markets overreact when in fact we didn't.

The logical answer to a market challenge is to improve policies to the point where traders can find nothing to which they can raise objections, and to improve surveillance so the authorities can be nearly as vigilant as the markets.

The finance ministers' agreement in April to get the yen back down to a more man-

ageable level took a step away from that purist view. The turning point was the coordinated currency intervention during the summer. But this weekend, fault lines will show between the Germans and the Japanese on one hand, and the Americans and French on the other. Conveniently for Kenneth Clarke, the British are sitting quietly in the middle while tensions among the others become more obvious.

Market speculation has focused on whether Robert Rubin, the imposing US Treasury Secretary, speaks for all members of the administration when he says a strong dollar is good for America. Investors suspect some officials still think a weaker dollar would be preferable. They also doubt the strength of Germany's commitment to further co-ordinated intervention to support the dollar, knowing the Bundesbank's traditional reluctance to step in.

Despite these rifts, the mood in the corridors of Washington about the currency swings achieved so far is one of quiet satisfaction. Ministers' main attention will rest instead on progress on surveillance and on the IMF's ability to react to crisis, 10 months after the Mexican emergency. But the two areas of concern – currencies and the developing world – are linked by the same theme: can the finance ministers ever really tame the financial markets? As the Plaza agreement on currencies exactly 10 years ago proved, their successes are likely to be ephemeral.

Battle for Fisons: Bidder increases stakes

Warburg calls for dawn raid probe

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Rhône Poulenc Rorer yesterday raised its hostile bid for Fisons and snapped up 16.6% of its shares in the stock market. But the move was immediately attacked by Fisons bankers, SEC Warburg, who demanded an inquiry into the dawn raid carried out by RPR's adviser Hoare Govett.

Warburg complained to the Stock Exchange and Takeover Panel. RPR increased its bid for Fisons from 240p to 265p a share and raised its stake in the target to 16.6 per cent.

Fisons advisers were concerned about a number of shareholders registered around 9.3am and 9.42am that may have made it appear as though RPR had snatched up more of Fisons than it had.

It was unclear whether Hoare Govett was behind the contentious transactions, and in the heat of the moment it is possible that the trades were mistakenly registered.

But the battle between Fisons and RPR has become increasingly bitter, and both sides are looking at ways to undermine their opponent's position. Hoare Govett were unavailable for comment.

RPR's renewed bid values Fisons at £1.83bn. RPR said its renewed bid was final, but

added that it reserved the right to raise it again should a third party bidder emerge on the UK's Takeover Panel allow it.

Stuart Wallis, Fisons' chief executive, said the final status of the second bid needed to be clarified.

"What I suspect is that it is final, but we would like that verified. Any other party would not want to reveal their hand until after Rorer's final bid," he said.

Mr Wallis declined to say if Fisons had had talks with any other potential bidders, but added that it would be unwise "to rule anything out."

He maintained that approaches were often made only after the original offer had made a final move. He went on that Fisons would be producing a full response to the RPR's offer "in the next few days" which would challenge a number of the assertions in the new offer document.

He said if RPR wanted a recommendation from the Fisons board then it would have to raise its bid again – something the Takeover Panel clause in the offer document may allow.

"We don't feel the bid is something we would want to recommend," he said, declining to name a price for the firm.

Robert Cawthorn, chairman of RPR said the new offer reflected both the intrinsic value

of Fisons and the value of its contribution in terms of RPR's future growth.

"It is difficult to see how this bid could be seen as undervaluing the combined group. RPR is offering a very healthy premium," said Mr Cawthorn.

Analysts say the pricing of Rorer's second offer looks as if the firm believes it can win the bidding war in the marketplace

and is unwilling to pay any more just to get a recommendation from Fisons' board.

Fisons said the near 15 per cent stake picked up in the market by RPR yesterday morning had resulted from arbitrageurs taking profit rather than through institutional selling. Fisons' share price currently stands 3p shy of the offer level at 262p. More than 250 million shares changed hands.

Mr Wallis will be handsomely rewarded by a takeover, thanks to his share options, which have risen in value as Fisons' finances have improved.

Together with compensation for the loss of his £315,000 a year salary, Mr Wallis could walk away from his year at Fisons with around £2m.

After a series of resignations following the revelations that profits had been inflated, Mr Wallis moved swiftly to repair Fisons' balance sheet and reputation.

Back in black: a buoyant Alan Sugar yesterday

Photograph: Jane Baker

Amstrad in buying mood

MATTHEW HORSMAN

Back in black and increasingly confident, Amstrad plans to hit the acquisition trail, with as much as £300m to spend on compatible companies.

"We are not interested in small acquisitions," Alan Sugar, company chairman, said yesterday. But the usually outspoken Mr Sugar refused to specify sectors where the company might expand.

Amstrad announced pre-tax profits in the year to June of £3.1m, compared to a loss of £2.0m in June 1994 of nearly £20m. The results were ahead of expectations, helping fuel a 12.5% rise in the share price to 268.5p. The small profit reverses four years of red ink at one of the fastest-

growing companies in the 1980s. David Rogers, chief executive, said the figures proved that "recovery was well on the way". However, he added that "we won't be satisfied until we have positive growth at ACE", the company's main consumer electronics division, and makers of the trademark Amstrad computers, faxes and other electronic equipment.

Viglen, the computer company bought last year for an initial consideration of £30m, performed in line with expectations, he said, while Dancall, the mobile phone manufacturer, came in under forecast despite delays in production. Mr Sugar blamed the length of time it took to receive approval for the Dancall digital

mobile phone technology in several countries, and estimated the operations were about four months behind schedule.

Dancall spent £8m last year on building up its manufacturing operations, and hopes to sell about 800,000 handsets a year. Total capital expenditure was £14m.

The mobile phone market is believed to be Amstrad's best chance of regaining momentum in the consumer electronics sector. Other new products include Dataflex, an all-in-one fax, modem and answering machine that Mr Sugar calls the "all-singing, all-dancing product".

Analysts said the full year results were encouraging and expected profits to rise sharply this year and next.

Investment Column, page 27

Further cuts in fixed-rate home loans

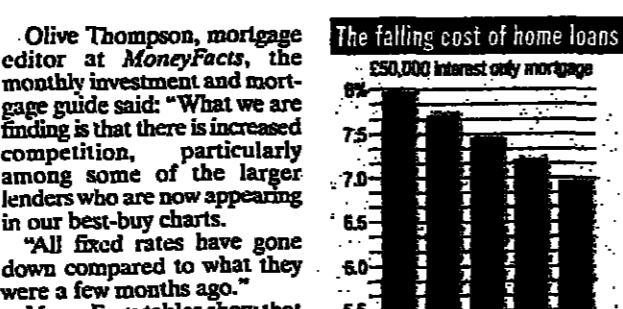
NIC CICUTTI

Lenders desperate to grab a slice of a shrinking market for home loans are dropping rates on their long-term fixed rate mortgages by up to 2 per cent.

The fall in the cost of long-term mortgage rates in the past three months has been far greater than the headline-grabbing drop of about 0.4 per cent last month.

Both would-be and existing borrowers on variable rate mortgages were then offered cuts averaging £13 a month on an average £50,000 loan.

The decision to slash rates fixed over three and five years by about 0.75 per cent has meant savings of twice that amount for new borrowers entering the market. In some cases the savings have been even higher.



now costs 4.99 per cent compared with a rate of 6.49 per cent in June.

Ian Darby, a director at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, said yesterday: "Most building societies are not hedging short fixes on the money markets."

"If we offer a 4.75 per cent mortgage fixed for two years,

they are linking them directly to the cuts in the standard variable rate. In practice, whatever the variable reduction, the fixed rate drops also."

Mr Darby singled out Portman, Bradford & Bingley and Skipton building societies as those with the deepest fixed rate cuts.

Mr Deutsch said competition was forcing lenders to cut the cost of loans and slash their margins despite the absence, so far, of a corresponding downward move in base rates.

In some cases, mortgage rate reductions are used to cement building societies' loyalty. Yorkshire Building Society, has reduced its variable rate to 7.85 per cent for existing borrowers.

Mr Darby said that other reductions were being offered by societies which hoped to grab a greater share of the loan market in advance of their abandonment of mutual status.

we are losing money in the process. But the customers want it and the hope is that we can keep them for a longer period after the fixed period ends so that we can start to make money."

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halfway across the Atlantic no one really knows where a plane is at all. That means aircraft have to keep close to predetermined routes and a long, long way from each other.

Satellite communications, and the pinpoint tracking they provide even miles out of a country's airspace, should mean that aircraft can fly much closer together, can avoid costly stacking above congested airports and steer clear of turbulence.

One estimate puts the potential savings at \$250,000 per plane a year.

Apart from the fact that aircraft will have to adopt the systems because only wired up planes will get the best routes, the savings should mean that these systems become stan-

dard.

The system's developers – it

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL (ISLE OF MAN) LIMITED.

Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited, announces revised interest rates from 6th October 1995.

| BALANCE | ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. % | MONTHLY INTEREST GROSS P.A. % |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD 90 | | |
| £100,000+ | 6.50 | 6.31 |
| £50,000+ | 6.25 | 6.08 |
| £25,000+ | 6.00 | 5.84 |
| £10,000+ | 5.80 | 5.65 |
| HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD | | |
| £100,000+ | 6.00 | 5.84 |
| £50,000+ | 5.80 | 5.65 |
| £25,000+ | 5.60 | 5.46 |
| £10,000+ | 5.40 | 5.27 |
| £5,000+ | 4.85 | 4.75 |
| £500+ | 3.90 | 3.83 |

If you have less than £10,000 in your Halifax International Gold 90 account it will earn interest at the equivalent Halifax International Gold rate. If you have less than £500 in your Halifax International Gold 90 or Halifax International Gold account we will only pay interest at 1.00% gross p.a. Gross means we will not take any tax off the interest we pay. The accounts above are not available to residents of the Isle of Man.

Further details can be obtained by calling Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited on 01624 612323 (from within the UK) or 44 1824 612323 (from outside the UK).



5TH OCTOBER 1995

business

Faster response required in the fight against future financial crises. Diane Coyle reports from Washington

Emergency funds set to double

The International Monetary Fund expects its members to agree this weekend to a doubling of its emergency funds, one of the most important steps towards improving its ability to react to financial crises.

Finance ministers gathering in Washington on the eve of the IMF's annual meeting will approve proposals to provide a \$50bn-plus fighting fund to tackle emergencies like the Mexican financial crisis. The new arrangement should be in place by next spring.

Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, said yesterday: "This is a very important and timely initiative."

The Group of Seven (G7) industrial countries agreed at



their summit in Halifax in June to a significant extension to the IMF's General Arrangements to Borrow. These are a \$27 billion overdraft facility provided by the G7 and the four other countries - Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland - which make up the G10. The decision was a reaction to the Mexican financial crisis, even though the Fund financed its \$17.8 billion loan to Mexico out of its own resources.

However, progress on extending the GAB has been

slowed by negotiations to involve other countries, Austria, Australia and Korea, for example, are being approached for contributions to a new, parallel arrangement to the existing GAB. Although the non-G7 members of the G10 fear dilution of their influence, their bigger partners believe it is essential to make other important economies take up their responsibilities to the international community.

Terms of the new parallel arrangement are still under dis-

cussion but Mr Camdessus said yesterday: "I hope they come to a decision as rapidly as possible. We need to have a mechanism permanently in place."

The IMF has failed, though, in another bid to increase its resources. Ministers are unlikely to agree to a general increase in the subscriptions paid by member countries.

As another part of its post-Mexico improvements, the Fund expects to have stricter standards for economic statistics provided by members in place by next April: 12 basic measures that all countries must provide monthly, and more demanding standards for countries that borrow in the international financial markets.

Mr Camdessus said the Fund was working on making the information available electronically to the financial markets. "One of the best ways for countries to protect themselves against erratic behaviour by the financial markets is to provide all the relevant data. Markets hate surprises," he said.

The Mexican crisis, which triggered the flurry of activity to improve the IMF's surveillance procedures and financial resources, is well on its way to resolution, Mr Camdessus said. The country had met the IMF's economic conditions and would qualify for another \$1.6bn disbursement in mid-November, on top of the \$12bn it has already received from the Fund.



Kenneth Clarke: off to Washington today

Frost hits back at fuel claim

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Frost Group, the quoted petrol retailer, yesterday issued a writ for damages against the Retail Motor Industry Federation in a row over claims that its fuel can damage car engines.

The federation had said that a new petrol, to be sold through many of Frost's 1,250 Sava outlets, may be bad for engines, a claim supported by Rover Group and Shell.

James Frost, chairman of Frost Group, the fifth largest petrol retailer in the UK, said the RMI had failed to provide satisfactory evidence to back its claim. "The RMI issued a press release making these claims, which was followed up by the media throughout the country. It is not yet possible to assess the damage," Mr Frost said. The writ does not put a figure on the claim for damages.

Frost's new lead-free petrol includes an additive that makes it suitable for cars using leaded four-star fuel. Frost said the petrol gives the same performance as leaded four-star.

The RMI had reported Frost to the trading standards department, urging prosecution of the petrol was not suitable. The organisation, which issued its press release last month, yesterday declined to comment.

Some G7 countries such as Germany will not be persuaded easily that there is a need to interfere with the financial markets.

Since the IMF and World Bank mid-year meetings six months ago plans to increase the Fund's emergency resources have been in progress.

This weekend's meetings are likely to bring an agreement to increase the "General Arrangements to Borrow" - the IMF's overdraft facility with its shareholder countries - and formalise the emergency financing mechanism.

It also relied on the happy chance that the IMF had plenty of funds in its coffers at the time. Since the IMF and World Bank mid-year meetings six months ago plans to increase the Fund's emergency resources have been in progress.

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Since coming to the stock market in 1991 with 80 service stations, Frost has grown rapidly, and in July paid £33m for Burmah Castrol's petrol retail operation.

Ministers to decide on crisis plan

A new report financed by the Treasury and Bank of England on how to deal with international financial crises, published today, is likely to win backing from finance ministers meeting in Washington this weekend.

Drawing on the lessons of the Mexican crisis at the beginning of this year, it suggests reforms of the process for restructuring a country's debts.

The report concludes that one of the key improvements would be to stop the "rush for the exit" - the flight of capital when a country first runs into trouble.

Every investor has an incentive to be one of the first to bail out before the country's financial markets collapse too far. But all would be better off if the stampede leading to the collapse could be prevented.

The authors, Barry Eichengreen and Richard Portes of the Centre for Economic Policy Research, propose allowing the International Monetary Fund to impose a payments standstill.

They also suggest countries offer new types of bond contracts, backed by the IMF, which would prevent a few investors refusing a debt restructuring de-

sired by the majority. A second problem addressed by the report is that debt restructuring can be a painfully long process. It suggests a new agency to supervise negotiations with creditors and transmit information.

Thirdly, it suggests improved procedures for reacting to a crisis. The response of the international financial community to the Mexican problems early this year was confused and ad hoc, the authors argue.

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Manweb

Shareholder information update

Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

To hear your Board's advice

call
0800 55 66 22
(English language)
or
0800 55 66 33
(Welsh language)

The Directors of Manweb plc are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Manweb plc accept responsibility accordingly.

New Savings Rates from the Bristol & West

EFFECTIVE 6TH OCTOBER 1995.

| ACCOUNT | AMOUNT INVESTED | GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PAY* (VARIABLE) | NET PAY** |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------|
| PREMIER SAVER | | | |
| An instant access account for investors who get higher rates the fewer withdrawals they make (No withdrawals) | £100,000+ | 5.55% | 4.16% |
| | £50,000+ | 5.40% | 4.05% |
| | £25,000+ | 5.25% | 3.94% |
| | £10,000+ | 4.95% | 3.71% |
| | £5,000+ | 4.50% | 3.38% |
| | £2,000+ | 4.15% | 3.11% |
| | £1,000+ | 4.00% | 3.00% |
| | £500+ | 3.00% | 2.25% |
| (1-6 Withdrawals) | | | |
| | £100,000+ | 4.55% | 3.41% |
| | £50,000+ | 4.40% | 3.30% |
| | £25,000+ | 4.25% | 3.19% |
| | £10,000+ | 3.95% | 2.96% |
| | £5,000+ | 3.50% | 2.63% |
| | £2,000+ | 3.15% | 2.36% |
| | £1,000+ | 3.00% | 2.25% |
| | £500+ | 2.00% | 1.50% |
| (More than 6 Withdrawals) | | | |
| | £100,000+ | 3.55% | 2.66% |
| | £50,000+ | 3.55% | 2.66% |
| | £25,000+ | 3.35% | 2.51% |
| | £10,000+ | 2.85% | 2.14% |
| | £5,000+ | 2.55% | 1.91% |
| | £2,000+ | 2.30% | 1.73% |
| | £1,000+ | 0.50% | 0.38% |
| | £500+ | 0.50% | 0.38% |

BRISTOL & WEST

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Merger of top law firms ends 21-year feud

NIC CICUTTI

Mr Thompson said: "It is correct that three of our partners are not joining the new firm. I regret they are not going to be part of it. We will be sorry to lose them."

"Our view is that the market place is getting more competitive. This merger is a means of us becoming more effective."

He denied suggestions of a bail-out by one firm of the other. "Both are highly successful and will gain from the merger."

Yesterday, sources claimed their decision to resign followed their opposition to the merger with Brian Thompson & Partners, a firm set up by the brother of their own founder.

The planned fusion of the two Thompson firms will end a 21-year split between their brothers, Robin and Brian, and create Britain's largest employment law specialists.

At recent meetings of both firms' senior partners, the majorities in favour of merger were at least 10 to 1.

But the move is still opposed by some staff who claimed the junior ranks were not consulted: "There are a number of people, some of them senior, many more below equity partner level, who are not in favour," one insider alleged.

"Some feel that the merger is partly aimed at bailing out Brian Thompson & Partners, which has been less successful in recent years."

The claims were rejected by David Thompson, grandson of the firm's founder, who will head the combined partnership when the fusion is completed.

With effect from 6th October 1995

Exchequer 98 Buy Notice (Annual Interest)

| | Net % | Gross % | Gross (C&B) % |
|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|
| Up to £5,000 | 0.75 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| £5,000+ | 3.37 | 4.50 | 4.50 |
| £10,000+ | 3.93 | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| £25,000+ | 4.31 | 5.75 | 5.75 |
| £50,000+ | 4.50 | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| £100,000+ | 4.68 | 6.25 | 6.25 |

Other Exchequer terms available:

90 Day Notice (Monthly Interest), 30 Day Notice (Annual Interest), 30 Day Notice (Monthly Interest)

Midland Savings

| | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| Up to £2,000 | 1.30 | 1.74 | 1.75 |
| £2,000+ | 2.94 | 3.93 | 4.00 |
| £10,000+ | 3.30 | 4.41 | 4.50 |
| £25,000+ | 3.56 | 4.75 | 4.85 |
| £50,000+ | 3.84 | 5.13 | 5.25 |
| £100,000+ | 4.02 | 5.37 | 5.50 |

Saver Plus

| | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|
| Up to £500 | 1.68 | 2.24 | 2.25 |
| £500+ | 2.60 | 3.47 | 3.50 |
| £10,000+ | 2.97 | 3.97 | 4.00 |
| £25,000+ | 3.15 | 4.21 | 4.25 |
| £50,000+ | 3.52 | 4.70 | |

From
base
fuel

Edwards firm still in BFL bidding

DAVID HELLIER

Sources close to Coal Investments, the coal mining company run by the former British Coal executive, Malcolm Edwards, yesterday rejected rumours that money-raising difficulties had led to it pulling out of the bidding for the coal subsidiary of the British Fuels Group (BFL), one of British Coal's last surviving businesses. "We're still very much there," a source close to the company said. There have been industry worries about Coal Investments' bid ever since the company, which is spending heavily on investment for its coal mining operations, put out a profit warning last month.

There is also concern that Coal Investments' management has enough on its agenda without the further worries caused by a bid for BFL Coal.

However, a source said that bid would not have been made if it were felt the company could not find management of the right calibre, and the same source said any funding for a successful bid would not come from the equity market.

"The Coal Investments bid involves a very innovative form of funding, which is unusual for a public company," said one source with knowledge of the discussions.

It is believed that three bids, including one from Coal Investments and another from the management team, went in to the Government's advisers on the deal. Samuel Montagu, earlier this week. The bids are said to have been up to £50m for BFL's coal business, while there are separate bidders for BFL Oil. The solid fuel business in Northern Ireland, meanwhile, has attracted much attention.

The sale of BFL, one of the country's biggest distributors of solid fuels and petroleum products, began in April. The management buyout team is believed to have backing from Apax, the specialist venture capital finance house, and the third bidder is believed to be Fernwood, a Hull-based, private coal importing company. RJB Mining, which bought most of England's minefields from British Coal at the beginning of the year, is not believed to be one of the bidders.

The launch yesterday of the latest satellite communications product from Racial's joint venture with Honeywell confirms that, in some areas at least, the company is still at the forefront of technological developments. Apart from the obvious advantages of providing business travellers with the means to keep in touch, the ability to track aircraft precisely will be hugely attractive to airlines.

It is good news for a company which, after years of effortless progress when its share price soared, has had to come to terms with corporate middle-aged spread, looking enviously at younger, fitter businesses developing products and bringing them to market rapidly. Racial has struggled to keep up.

Most recent figures confirmed that the company's large and vital data products division, which churns out modems, credit-card terminals and computer peripherals, remained mixed in management and technical problems. Even including the Camelot share, which on some measures was overstated anyway, the division's return on sales was still a meagre 4 per cent.

The company is actively considering a sale of the operation, or a joint venture to share the pain, and, in the face of increased competition from small niche producers in the US able to deliver cheaply tailored products to the market, it is difficult to see how frittering around the edges with admittedly pretty sweeping management changes can really help.

Racial will think its lucky stars took a flutter on the Lottery. On current forecasts Racial's share of Camelot's profits could amount to £16m in the year to next March, making it the single largest contributor to group results. That is good and bad news.

Given recent hints from the evangelical socialist wing of new Labour, the risk of regulatory or political interference in the Lottery has increased markedly and investors must question the extent to which those earnings can be seen as a high-quality profits stream.

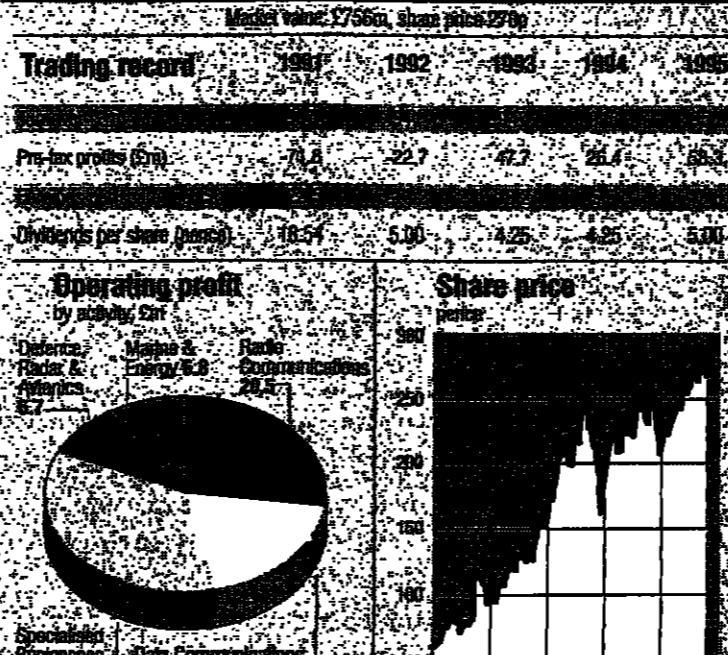
Over the years Racial has been a fantastic investment. Since 1985 the shares have risen more than 10-fold as its chairman, Sir Ernest Harrison, has nurtured businesses like Vodafone and Chubb and cashed in when they were mature enough to leave the nest. Analysts have argued that actions to realise the underlying value of its businesses could enable the share price to approach 330p.

That looks optimistic given the current share price of 270p, which on forecast profits before tax this year of £74m implies a pretty demanding price/earnings ratio of 16. With no support from a forward yield of 2.8 per cent, that takes a lot on trust.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Satellite gives Racial a boost

Racial: at a glance



Amstrad rewards patience, at last

Patient investors may finally see their virtue rewarded as Amstrad at last emerges from the sea of red ink in which it has been wallowing since 1991. The recovery had been expected since early this year, taking shares to the 250p level. Confirmation yesterday that the corner had indeed been turned pushed the price over 260p.

Amstrad has suffered in the past from the at-times overbearing behaviour of its founder and guiding spirit, Alan Sugar. But Mr Sugar's marketing skills are still appreciated in the City, even more so now that he has recruited the excellent David Rogers, the company's much admired chief executive.

The pair managed to wrestle with the company's two major problems in the course of the past year: over-reliance on the underperforming ACE - makers of the old-line Amstrad computers and other equipment - and the late start at Dancall, the mobile phone company on which Amstrad is pinning so much of its hopes.

An aggressive move into cellular phone manufacturing is surely a good move. Companies such as Nokia and Ericsson have kept investors happy with climbing earnings and strong profits, riding a worldwide boom for mobile

phones. Like satellite dishes in the 1980s, the mobile phone looks like a real winner. ACE is still performing poorly, but management has managed to cut inventories and expand sales through catalogue direct sales.

A four-month delay at Dancall has hurt the shares a bit this year, but assurances that output should rise to about 800,000 handsets a year were encouraging. Viglen, bought last year for an initial £30m, performed in line with expectations, suggesting Mr Sugar still knows how to pick his way through the acquisitions maze. He promises more of the same, spending perhaps £300m in cash and shares.

Pre-tax profits are forecast to rise to £25.5m in year ending June 1996, and perhaps £45m the year after, for a current year multiple of six times. Cheap anyway, but particularly in light of the company's cash-rich status. Amstrad has squandered away £141.9m at the bank. With forecasts like those and the improvement from mobile phones, the shares remain attractive.

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Strategy pays off at Storehouse

Keith Edelman of Storehouse is still pursuing better margins in preference to sales at both British Home Stores and Mothercare, and the strategy seems to be paying off in spite of four months of poor weather for clothing sales in the last six.

Allowing for the disposal of One Up, group sales in the six months to October 14 should be between 1 and 2 per cent ahead of last year, the company told a group of institutions and analysts yesterday. Like for like sales will be down at British Home Stores but Mothercare remains strong trading.

Customer discounts on Choice, the group card will be relaxed, allowing points earned up to Christmas to be carried over. Six new BHS stores will be open by then and existing stores are being revamped and extended.

The sales mix at Mothercare has moved significantly in favour of clothing where margins are much higher than in hardware. But better stock control is the real key to continuing improvement.

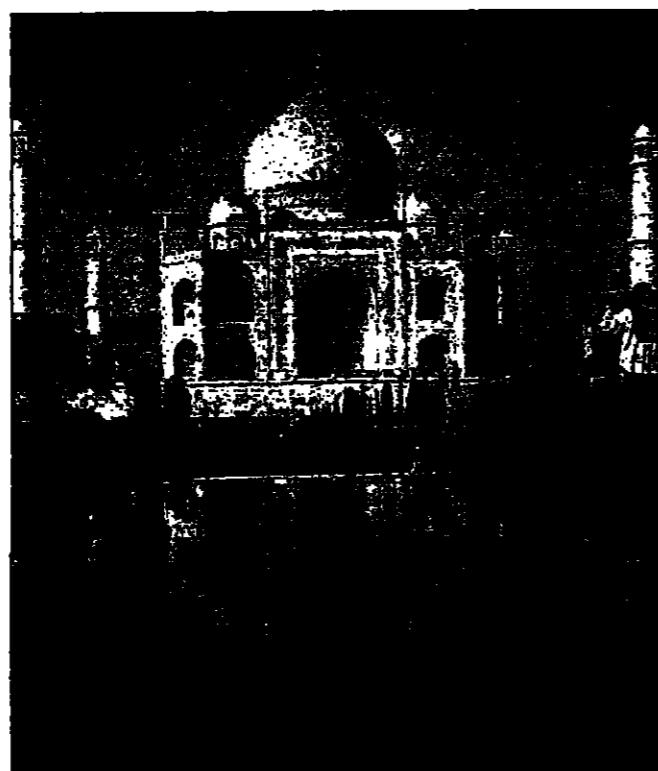
Analyst Andrew Hughes at PDSB is expecting interim profits to reach £28.5 million, against £24.2 million at the same stage last year but is leaving his full-year forecast at £110 million, up 20 per cent.

The shares edged up a penny to 301p but they have come a long way from the low a year ago. The City currently prefers them to M&S, and even at 20 times earnings there should be more to come.

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Crisis deepens at Eurotunnel

RUSSELL HOTTEN

step could be to declare that 18 months is not long enough.

Many analysts believe the company is headed towards a debt-equity swap with its creditors, perhaps in the form of a convertible bond issue reserved for the banks.

Eurotunnel is also seeking to renegotiate the contracts with rail operators British Rail and SNCF, which use the tunnel for their Eurostar service. Yesterday Reuters news agency said the agreement with BR and SNCF gives Eurotunnel a fixed rate of around Fr100 per rail passenger using the tunnel.

As well as looking for news of the company's legal action with the TML consortium and negotiations with the rail operators, any indication of traffic forecasts will be welcomed. Eurotunnel engaged in a fierce price war with the ferry companies this summer, and news about the operational outlook is crucial to a revised agreement with Eurotunnel's banks.

On 14 September Eurotunnel suspended interest payments last month, some analysts now believe losses for the first half will be around £50m more than first thought, at over £400m. Analysts are also hoping Eurotunnel will give an indication of the expected full-year losses, as the company's last forecast in May 1994 of about £580m is completely out of date.

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Eurotunnel also recently launched a fresh claim against the TML consortium of Anglo-French building contractors, but its chances of squeezing more money out of TML are slim.

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Shannon linked to County Casuals bid

DAVID HELLIER

John Shannon, the former chairman and chief executive of County Casuals, yesterday emerged as a possible bidder for the company he left just one day after a profits warning.

The board of County Casuals said yesterday it had received an approach from Ciro Holdings, a company controlled by Mr Shannon in connection with a possible bid for the company.

Shares in the company, a manufacturer and retailer of ladies' fashion wear, moved 15p higher to 134p on the announcement, Robson Rhodes.

Mr Shannon left County Casuals in September last year immediately after the profits warning and after a row about the length of his service contract. Mr Shannon, who still

owns nearly 20 per cent of the shares in the company, wanted his contract, which reverted to being a one-year one, extended to two or three years but the board refused to sanction such an increase.

County Casuals said yesterday the timing of Mr Shannon's approach was "opportunistic" and the level of the possible offer did not reflect the potential of the Group.

Ciro Holdings is believed to be a company taken over by Mr Shannon earlier this year. In his move on County Casuals Mr Shannon is being advised by the accountants, Robson Rhodes.

Last month the company said it had reduced its half-year losses from £1.49m to £1.05m, partly thanks to the disposal of its loss-making Koto fashion chain.

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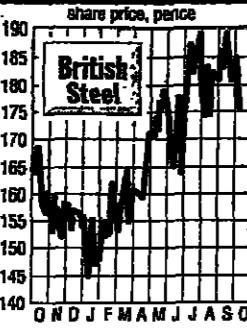
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market report/shares

DATA BANK

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------|
| FT-SE 100 | 3,544.4 | +0.3 |
| FT-SE 250 | 3,991.3 | +7.5 |
| FT-SE 350 | 1,771.5 | +0.8 |
| SEQ VOLUME | 1,002m shares, | |
| | 28,867 bargains | |
| Gifts Index | 93.34 | -0.1 |

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Second-liners advance amid takeover speculation

Leading shares were in the shadow of second-line stocks yesterday. The FT-SE 250 index closed advanced 7.5 points to an all-time high of 3,991.3 amid rumours that several takeover bids were about to be unleashed, particularly in the pub trading and oil sectors.

An advance of 0.3 of a point to 3,544.4 was recorded by the FT-SE 100 index. Only two of the top 100 shares managed double-digit gains: Legal & General, the life assurance group, which rose 15.5p to 161.5p, and General Accident, the composite insurer, which gained. Again, the driving force was speculation.

A merger between the two is seen as more of a possibility rather than a straight takeover bid by one for the other. Speculation about a foreign buyer for L&G has also surfaced in recent months.

Total volume trading topped 1 billion shares, one of the best

levels seen for many weeks. Some 21 per cent of the total figure, however, related to Rhone Poulen's raid on shares in Fisons after it increased its takeover terms from 240p to 265p.

The first of the expected fresh wave of bids to roll off the production lines, however, may be for Boddington, the Manchester-based pub and leisure company. Greenalls, the rival North West pub operator, is the hot favourite to make an all-share offer valuing Boddington at around 250p/share.

Boddington yesterday had to announce it was in bid talks as its shares soared during reasonably heavy trading for what is a tightly-held stock. The price closed 86p higher at 358p, comfortably above the year's high of 295p.

There was also a separate rumour that Vaux, the Sunderland-based regional brewer, pubs and hotel operator may

also find itself on the receiving end of a bid. Wolverhampton & Dudley, based in the Midlands but also the owner of the North-East Camerons brewery, is the favoured suitor. Wolverhampton's shares advanced 8p to 547p and Vaux gained 15p to 300p, which values the company at more than £240m.

These potential deals are all seen as being part and parcel of the inevitable consolidation of the pub and brewing industries. Additional evidence of the process was yesterday provided by Allied Domecq, down 6p to 526p, which announced the closure of its brewery of Warrington, part of its joint venture with Carlsberg



MARKET REPORT

JOHN SHEPHERD

of Denmark.

The excitement about Boddington and Vaux lifted Greene King, best known for its Abbot and Greene King IPA beers, by 41p to 633p - just 2p below its year's high. Greene King is struggling to make money from brewing outside its East Anglia heartland. Competition in the free-trade is fierce, and wholesale prices of beers are being kept low by an ongoing fight by the big brewers for market share.

A flurry of bid activity in the sector could be good news for the string of pub companies lining up to float on the stock market. They include Enterprise Inns, Tom Cobleigh, and

get for Monument Oil & Gas, are trading at 55p. Hardy Oil & Gas, rumoured as another bid candidate, continued its recent strong run with a 4p gain to a year's high of 195p.

British Steel was one of the biggest fallers among the heavyweight division, dropping 3.75p to 175.25p. Trading was heavy with almost 14 million going through the books.

Damage was mainly caused by analysts at SBC Warburg predicting the company would have to cut its dividend payments next year from 12.5p to 10p.

There were also reports that two other leading broking houses were preparing to downgrade expectations.

Amstrad shares were in demand, closing 12.5p higher at 168.5p on the back of its latest results and a hint from Alan Sugar, the chairman, that it may soon spend its £140m pot of cash on more acquisitions.

TAKING STOCK

There was excitement in early dealings that United News & Media was poised to sell the *Sunday Express* and *Daily Express*. The rumour has been around for months, but the reasons for yesterday's rise of 9p to 538p were eventually traced to Pannure Gordon which had issued a buy recommendation on the back of good prospects for United's other activities.

Savills has bought a 10 per cent stake in the youthful firm of stockbrokers Killik & Co. Killik was founded only six years ago by Paul Killik, formerly of Quilter Goodison, and Matthew Orr. Savills is providing a £500,000 capital facility in exchange for the stake. The holding will rise to 25 per cent if Killik uses another £500,000 facility provided by Savills.

| SHARE PRICE DATA | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: x Ex rights x Ex dividend x Unlisted Securities Market x Suspended x Source: Firstar x FT Party Paid per Nil Paid Shares. | | | | | | | | | |
| THE INDEPENDENT INDEX | | | | | | | | | |
| The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 123 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. | | | | | | | | | |
| FT-SE 100 - Real-time | | | | | | | | | |
| 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 |
| FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 | 0891 123 335 |
| Open 3545.5 up 2.4 | 11.00 3550.7 up 6.6 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 21.00 3540.8 down 0.8 |
| 09.00 3550.9 up 6.8 | 12.00 3553.8 up 8.7 | 13.00 3553.2 up 11.1 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 |
| 10.00 3546.4 up 4.3 | 13.00 3553.2 up 11.1 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 21.00 3540.8 down 0.8 |
| Close 3544.4 up 0.3 | | | | | | | | | |
| MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m |
| Phone | 212,000 | British Telecom | 9,000 | Telewest | 7,200 | TMG | 6,000 | BT | 6,000 |
| Haven | 17,000 | Siemens | 6,000 | BTi | 7,100 | BTi | 6,000 | BTi | 6,000 |
| British Steel | 10,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 |
| AAV Group | 1,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 |
| BTG | 9,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 |
| FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 21.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 22.00 3541.8 down 2.3 |
| Open 3545.5 up 2.4 | 11.00 3550.7 up 6.6 | 12.00 3553.8 up 8.7 | 13.00 3553.2 up 11.1 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 |
| 09.00 3550.9 up 6.8 | 12.00 3553.8 up 8.7 | 13.00 3553.2 up 11.1 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 |
| 10.00 3546.4 up 4.3 | 13.00 3553.2 up 11.1 | 14.00 3551.8 up 7.7 | 15.00 3550.1 up 6.0 | 16.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 17.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 18.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 19.00 3540.8 down 0.8 | 20.00 3541.8 down 2.3 | 21.00 3540.8 down 0.8 |
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| INDEX-LINKED | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m |
| FT-SE 100 | 212,000 | British Telecom | 9,000 | Telewest | 7,200 | TMG | 6,000 | BT | 6,000 |
| FT-SE 250 | 17,000 | Siemens | 6,000 | BTi | 7,100 | BTi | 6,000 | Siemens | 5,000 |
| FT-SE 350 | 1,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 | Siemens | 5,000 |
| GOVERNMENT SECURITIES | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m | Stock | Var 10m |
| FT-SE 100 | 212,000 | British Telecom | 9,000 | Telewest | 7,200 | TMG | 6,000 | BT | 6,000 |
| FT-SE 250 | 17,000 | Siemens | 6,000 | BTi | 7,100 | BTi | 6,000 | Siemens | 5,000</ |

sport

Smouldering Cigar awaits challengers

For those who have backed Halling for the Breeders' Cup, tomorrow's may be a sleepless night following film of a monster from outer space.

Sky Sports Channel is to beam in two races from Belmont Park's Breeders' Cup preview day, one of which will feature Cigar, whom the Americans, in the most pleasant way possible, regard as a freak. According to the Las Vegas oddsmakers he is the one horse that stands between Halling and the Classics.

Cigar lines up in the Jockey

Club Gold Cup against Dernier Empereur, the winner of last season's Champion Stakes at Newmarket, and the horse that won two legs of the American Triple Crown this year, Thunder Gulch. These luminaries are expected to be among the 11th consecutive batch of Cigar victims.

The five-year-old's last victory was in the Woodward Stakes, after which his trainer, Bill Mott, delivered a thought-worrying close to Allen Paulson's assessment of Arzai (Paulson also owns Cigar).

Richard Edmondson on America's leading light for the Breeders' Cup

"He's the best horse I've ever trained," Mott said. "He may be the best horse anyone has every trained."

"I've watched a lot of good horses run in my short lifetime," affirmed, Seattle Slew and Spectacular Bid come to mind."

Mott's opinion is worth gazing at as he has not let many days of his 42 years drift by. The South Dakotan was training racehorses while he was still at

school, financing the operation with cattle and pigs he had raised.

A visitor to the winners' circle for the first time at the age of 15 with a \$320 mare, he graduated to become private trainer to Bert and Diana Firestone, whose horses earned in excess of \$4m during the first year of their alliance.

Mott knows he will not add to his balance easily when Cigar

returns to Belmont for the Breeders' Cup on 28 October. "Halling is a new shooter who will have to be taken seriously and, of course, you also have Thunder Gulch."

Even if Cigar wins impressively tomorrow, it appears there is no need for those with Hailing vouchers to get a revolver out of the top drawer. The recent word from Newmarket has been that even though the chestnut has won both the Eclipse and International Stakes this season, they were no more than prep races

for Belmont in the Fall. The men from Godolphin, in whose colours Hailing runs, know Cigar as Sheikh Mohammed has horses with Mott, and there have been no reports of their boots registering on the Richter Scale.

Sheikh Mohammed used to have Hailing with John Gosden in the days when you could say Henry Cecil without causing the Sheikh to choke on his kebab. Probably the best the pair have this season is Tamure, the Derby runner-up who was yesterday announced as one of the am-

inals invited for the International Vase at Sha Tin, Hong Kong on 10 December. Others include Presenting, Singspiel and Freedom Cry, who is likely to take on Lammtarra again in the Breeders' Cup Turf along the way.

The sorry Cecil has a connection with the other big race in the colony that day, as the recently removed Charnwood Forest — along with another Godolphin horse, Tamayaz — has been summoned for the £287,000 Hong Kong Invitational Cup.

Britain in bid for £10m grant

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

British athletics is seeking a £10m development grant to keep pace with other countries as campaigns get under way to bring the World Championships and Olympics to this country.

Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletics Federation, said yesterday that if the government could not provide the money, the rules of the National Lottery should be changed to allow a lump sum to be donated. "Other governments are pumping considerable sums into their athletic federations," he said. "We have to make sure that our athletes are not disadvantaged on their own territory."

The British Olympic Association has announced its intention to bid for the 2008 Olympics, and Radford is currently lobbying hard to bring the World Championships of 2001 to these shores. "They must come to Britain," he said. "We must show the world that we can and will do it. If we don't get support, we simply have good ideas that wither on the vine. But that is not going to happen."

Radford laid out a six-point plan for the season leading into next summer's Olympics. Contracts for athletes' payments would be sorted out far earlier, he said, in an effort to avoid the row with Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and John Regis which disfigured last season. He has already spoken to Christie and Jackson, and plans to set up a forum for athletes to voice their opinions to the BAF.

More flexible ticket pricing, involving discounts for family groups, is one of the initiatives aimed at increasing attendances in a domestic programme which will contain the same number of events as last year. Olympic selection policy will be announced on 8 November.

Challenge for Dover to turn the tide

Non-League notebook

RUPERT METCALF

When your side is stranded at the bottom of the table and has lost nine games in a row, a trip to the league leaders is a tough prospect. That is what faces Dover Athletic tomorrow, when they travel to Kidderminster Harriers.

The Kent club made a good start to their GM Vauxhall Conference campaign, winning at Northwich Victoria, but have lost every league match since. Peter Taylor, previously in charge at Southend United, succeeded John Ryan in the manager's office last week and wasted little time in reinforcing his squad. In came Martin Hayes, the former Arsenal and Celtic forward, and Tony Rogers back from Chelmsford City for his second spell at the club.

"This job is a challenge, but it's not impossible," Taylor said last night. "I've seen good signs since I came here, despite the results. I think we'll have things sorted out within a month."

Dover found no change of fortune in the FA Cup — they were beaten by Bognor Regis in the first qualifying round last month — and there are opportunities for further upsets in tomorrow's third qualifying round. There are seven Conference teams involved and all have home ties, with Telford United, who face Halesowen Town, perhaps the most vulnerable.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football
BORD GÁIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Division: Cork Town v Bohemians (5.30); Division 2: Cork City v Waterford (5.30); Division 3: Shamrock Rovers v St Patrick's Athletic (5.30); FA YOUTH CUP: First Round qualifying: Stourbridge v Tonbridge.

Speedway
PREMIER LEAGUE: Edinburgh v Glasgow; Oxford v Exeter; Peterborough v Crayford Heath.

Ice Hockey
EUROPEAN CUP: Keulen Trappers v Sheffield Steelers.

Other sports
GOLF: Women's home internationals (Wentworth). TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite (Nottingham).

TODAY'S NUMBER
69

The age of the new holder of the squat-lifting record in the British All-round Weightlifters' Guild, Alfred Koslow, lifted 77.5kg in his first competition after taking up the sport a year ago.



plenty more to show, although the drop back to a mile and the easy ground are disconcerting.

3.45: HALF AN INCH showed improvement on his latest run at Brighton and can maintain the trend over this stiffer track.

3.45: These met over this course 12 days ago and at today's weight, A La Carte should come out best. However, GOALWAH, who has had only four races, has

done well in his last two, including a win at Ascot.

3.45: Five of these met over this course 12 days ago and at today's weight, A La Carte should come out best. However, GOALWAH, who has had only four races, has

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sport

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP: The biggest event in the game's history begins at Wembley tomorrow. **Dave Hadfield** reports



Strength through unity: South Africa finish their training session yesterday ready to counter their inexperience with a display of team play

Photograph: Victoria Matthews

Time to capture the imagination

The build-up is over. The political arguments, which have gone on rather longer, are over, at least for now. All that remains is the action: and it is that action that will determine whether the game's 100th birthday is a celebration or an anticlimax.

The Halifax Centenary World Cup, which kicks off after Diana Ross has warbled at Wembley tomorrow, is the biggest event in a century of rugby league. That does not, of course, make it as big as the last sporting event at which Miss Ross sang football's World Cup in Los Angeles. And compared to rugby union's beauteous in South Africa last summer, the hype has been non-existent.

What the code has is what it has had throughout its history—not worldwide domination, but a level of entertainment that can leave even the uncommitted wondering how it has failed to seize the global imagination. Starting with the opening match between England and the world champions and tournament

favourites, Australia, tomorrow afternoon, this World Cup promises high-speed contact sport at its most gripping. Now we will see whether it can deliver.

The tournament director, Maurice Lindsay, says, as he must, that we are in for three weeks of scintillating rugby.

The game, after all the upheavals of the last year, needs that. It is up to England and Australia to set the standard and, if both have limitations that prevent them being at their optimum level, then they at least appear well-matched opponents.

Australia, however you look at it, would be stronger if the Super League row had not split the game in that country. England's problems are more mundane. They are simply suffering from the tedium that injuries have made into a limited stock of world-class talent.

Whoever wins at Wembley—and Lindsay will be praying that the BBC's trailer filmed in an empty stadium is not prophetic—the tournament is geared to England and Australia

meeting again in the final at the same venue three weeks later.

As the New Zealand coach, Frank Endacott, says, such plans are made to be spoiled, and the Kiwis, despite dreadful form over the last year, must be the most likely spoilers.

They should win a group that also includes Tonga and Papua New Guinea, although they must be wary of both. If they can strike some sort of form in the process, they will be dangerous semi-final opponents for the side which finishes second in the England-Australia group, which also includes Fiji and South Africa.

Given a choice, both Australia's Bob Fulton and England's Phil Larder would like to avoid them, because they know that before too long the Kiwis are going to click, not merely click as they have done of late. Looking at the array of talent as they paraded for the cameras at Warrington this week, the thought kept creeping through that these, in terms of pure ability, should be the favourites.

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Whoever wins at Wembley—and Lindsay will be praying that the BBC's trailer filmed in an empty stadium is not prophetic—the tournament is geared to England and Australia

instead. New Zealand rank a distant third, and if they fall on their faces again, could fail to justify even that modest rating. They might not even be the main danger to the big two. That threat could emerge from Group Three, the intriguing three-cornered battle in South Wales.

The home side start with obvious advantages and with the mighty asset of Jonathan Davies, eager to bid farewell to international rugby league with a memorable tournament, as captain and inspiration.

The sheer size of their forwards is Wales' other potential trump card, especially if, as can be expected, Clive Griffiths permis various combinations from his bench to ensure that there are always fresh runners available.

Few rugby followers in Wales,

however, will be over-confident when faced with a side wearing the colours of Western Samoa.

They have wonderful individual talent, and not just among the players familiar from their English club connections, but

collectively they could be either devastating or inept.

Just to confuse matters further, there is the eternal unpredictability of the French. They too could be admirable or awful, but the fact that they have one of the smartest operations in the game in charge in Patrick Entat suggests that they will be no pushovers.

It is possible to pick any number of holes in this World Cup. Ticket sales so far are disappointing, but this is rugby league, and rugby league people do not automatically turn up to watch matches because someone has stuck a grandiose label on them. They will have to be convinced.

Some of the sides are, to be honest, a little contrived, the Tongan and Samoan squads being heavily dependent on expatriates with at least one other alternative nationality.

And even with their inclusion, there are not quite enough teams to give a World Cup the right sort of shape. One of the competing countries, South Africa, knows in its heart of hearts that it is not

ready. But there will be more furiously competitive matches than there will be one-sided ones, and more open, flowing contests than there are dull, formidabile ones.

The theme song might be performed by the lead singer of a forgotten pop group rather than by a dame, but that does not make it a pantomime. On the contrary, the one thing that everyone in and around the game is confident of is that the quality of the matches will compare favourably with anything that other codes of football can lay on.

Provided it can get off to a good start this weekend, with a satisfying spectacle in an at least half-full Wembley, and with good support for the two matches on Sunday that do not involve British sides, then the World Cup can get a roll.

There are teams and individuals here capable of grabbing the attention and the imagination of the converted and unconverted alike. This, in the broadest sense, is what the last 100 years have been all about.

| TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Group One | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| England | | | | | | | |
| Fiji | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | | |
| Group Two | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | | | | |
| Tonga | | | | | | | |
| Group Three | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| France | | | | | | | |
| Wales | | | | | | | |
| Western Samoa | | | | | | | |

Top two in Group 1 and winners of Groups 2 and 3 qualify for semi-finals. Two points for a win, one for a draw.

timetable

| SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER | | Australia |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| England | Group 1, Wembley, 3pm | BBC One |
| SUNDAY 8 | | |
| Fiji | Group 1, Leighley, 2.30pm | |
| New Zealand | Group 2, Warrington, 6pm | BBC North |
| MONDAY 9 | | |
| Wales | Group 3, Cardiff, 8pm | BBC One |
| TUESDAY 10 | | |
| Papua New Guinea | v Tonga | BBC North |
| Group 2, Hull, 6.15pm | | |
| Australia | v South Africa | BBC One |
| Group 1, Gateshead, 8.15pm | | |
| WEDNESDAY 11 | | |
| England | Group 1, Wigan, 7.30pm | BBC One |
| THURSDAY 12 | | |
| France | v Western Samoa | BBC One |
| Group 3, Cardiff, 8pm | | |
| FRIDAY 13 | | |
| New Zealand | v Papua New Guinea | BBC North |
| Group 2, St Helens, 8pm | | |
| SATURDAY 14 | | |
| Australia | v Fiji | BBC One |
| Group 1, Huddersfield, 2pm | | |
| England | v South Africa | BBC One |
| Group 1, Headingley, 7pm | | |
| SUNDAY 15 | | |
| Western Samoa | v France | BBC One |
| Group 3, Gateshead, 8pm | | |
| SATURDAY 21 | | |
| First semi-final | | BBC One |
| Winners Group 1 v winners Group 3, Old Trafford, 3pm | | |
| SUNDAY 22 | | |
| Second semi-final | | BBC One |
| Winners Group 1 v winners Group 2, Huddersfield, 3pm | | |
| SATURDAY 28 | | |
| Wembley, 3pm | Final | BBC One |

* Channel to be confirmed

AUSTRALIA

Coach: Bob Fulton. Captain: Brad Fittler. Match winner: Brad Fittler

Even allowing for the absence of their Super League players, Australia still have enviable depth. They might be short of obvious star quality in some departments, but they have no glaring weaknesses either. Opponents will take heart from the theory that if they can stop Brad Fittler playing, they might have a chance. The problem is that stopping Fittler is easier said than done. And their defence will be as merciless as ever.

ENGLAND

Coach: Phil Larder. Captain: Brad Fittler. Match winner: Brad Fittler

The feeling that England will never have a better chance to beat Australia needs tempering with a few qualifications. Ellery Hanley's successor as coach, was appointed late and Phil Larder had problems. With Gary Connolly bedridden and Martin Offiah and Paul Newlove short of full fitness, the contribution of the ebullient Robinson on the right wing becomes crucial, as do the kicking and all-round skills of Andy Farrell.

FRANCE

Coach: Graham Murray. Captain: Lival Nalagilagi. Match winner: Noa Nadrudi.

Fiji have lost their first-choice coach, through politics, and their captain, James Pickering, through injury. They will still be good for some spectacular moments as they endeavour to prove that their love of running and handling makes them infinitely better suited to rugby league than to rugby union. Given a reasonable supply of the ball, Noa Nadrudi has the ability to be the winged foot of the tournament.

NEW ZEALAND

Coach: Frank Endacott. Captain: Matthew Ridge. Match winner: Richie Blackmore.

Fiji have shown definite signs of getting their act together over the last year, both in the European Championship and in drawing a Test in New Zealand. They depend heavily on Entat's organisational skills, but if he is able to get the ball wide, threequarters like Garcia, Pierre Chamom and David Fraisse, of Workington, have the talent to terrorise any defence, but it all depends on which way the wind is blowing.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Coach: Joe Tokem. Captain: Adrian Lam. Match winner: David Westley.

It is time for the Kiwis to shed their reputation as great under-achievers. The last time they added up to the sum of their parts was a decade ago. Frank Endacott had an impressive record before becoming national coach but must find the lost key to unlocking a wealth of ability. Backs like Richie Blackmore, Kevin Iro and Sam Hoppe have the pace to take full advantage of any opportunities.

SOUTH AFRICA

Coach: Tony Fisher. Captain: Jaco Breytenbach. Match winner: Mark Johnson.

Papua New Guinea, who are always difficult opponents in their own country, have never won an international abroad. They have some advantages this time, however, with a number of players who have toured with the national team, having an operation – are serious 'blows' to a squad short of experience at this level. Better suited to the Emerging Nations competition, they could suffer record defeats, but they do harder to stop near the line.

TONGA

Coach: Mike McClenahan. Captain: Duane Mann. Match winner: Mark Johnson.

The Rhinos are a worry, not just because they are unlikely to be competitive, but also because of fears they could cut up rough. The loss of Jamie Bloom, suspended for steroid abuse, and Andre Stoop – having an operation – are serious 'blows' to a squad short of experience at this level. Better suited to the Emerging Nations competition, they could suffer record defeats, but they do harder to stop near the line.

WALES

Coach: Clive Griffiths. Captain: Jonathan Davies. Match winner: Va'aliga Tuigamala.

Grieg's great achievement as Welsh coach, apart from winning the European Championship, last season has been to get his forwards thinking and working like a rugby league pack, rather than one borrowed from union. With their size and experience of playing together and the strike power of backs like Gibbs, Lestyn Harris and – for the last time in this national side – Davies, they start as narrow favourites in an extremely competitive group.

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

This weekend

TODAY

GOLF: Women's home internationals (Wessex, Hemel Hempstead) is free. Golf Club, Holt Road, Newbury. To book, call 01635 261033.

DARTS: Budweiser World Professional. Team competition, round robin, 12.30pm. The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm. The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm. The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm.

SWIMMING: National Age Group (Bath, 10.30am). The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm.

FOOTBALL: FA Cup (Brentford, 2pm). The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm.

NETBALL: National Cup (Brentford, 2pm). The last 16, semi-final and final, 1pm.

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Why Lewis cannot rival Bruno

When it comes to charisma tomorrow's big fight is a mismatch, says Ken Jones

If charisma was critical to the outcome of tomorrow's heavyweight encounter between Lennox Lewis and Tommy Morrison in Atlantic City it would be a walkover for the combative American.

Boxers are not obliged to be expert in communication but when questions are put to Morrison it is everything that Lewis is not. Fight writers use the phrase "totally focused" as another name for Lewis because he employs it time and time again when under interrogation. Also, it is safe to bet that the former World Boxing Council champion will describe himself as a man on a mission. If the promoters were relying on Lewis to drum up business they would find it a struggle to sell tickets.

You may think this irrelevant to proceedings in the ring but it helps to explain why Frank Bruno is far more popular than Lewis with the British public and Morrison is at present receiving most of the attention.

Speaking yesterday, Morrison confessed, appealingly, to behaviour that almost brought his boxing career to a premature conclusion. For example, after losing the World Boxing Organisation title to Michael Bentif in Atlantic City was more than two months before he got to bed earlier than five o'clock in the morning and always with female company. "I picked up girls everywhere," he said. "In bars, on the streets, I can't remember exactly how long that lasted but sure as hell it was spectacular. It seemed that whenever I picked up a newspaper or turned on the television a reporter was jumping on me."

Lennox Lewis is up to anything remotely similar people would fall off their chairs in astonishment. Totally focused he may be, but that doesn't make him interesting. Even if he succeeds in becoming the undisputed champion there won't be a parade as there was recently after Bruno defeated Oliver McCall for the WBC title.

This has nothing to with crudity but just plain old personality. Seeing Lewis go around with his head in the air causes some Americans to think him arrogant. "What's he got to be so high and mighty about," one said earlier this week when Lewis failed to show up on time for a press conference. "This is a guy who found a share of the championship in his mail, hasn't beaten anyone worth mentioning and was knocked out by Oliver McCall."

A topic guaranteed to get Lewis on his back concerns possibilities resulting from the outcome of tomorrow's contest on America's eastern seaboard. If he hears reference to disputed status as the WBC's leading contender for Bruno's crown the interview is over, his expression disdainful.

"Lennox doesn't want to speak about it," said his manager, Frank Maloney.

In London a short while ago Don King put it to Maloney that



Lewis: popularity problem

Now he tends to fight along straight lines, which is to my advantage because I've got to try and get to him on the inside. I don't think the knockout by McCall made Lewis gun-shy, but I do see some anxiety in his boxing. No fighter likes to get hit, but he fights afraid. He's never been in a war but I've been in plenty. That's something for Lewis to think about."

When referring to his man, Lewis's trainer, Emmanuel Steward, deals mainly in superlatives. Given half a chance, Steward goes on about vast improvements in technique and completeness in application. "Unquestionably, Lennox is the best heavyweight out there," he declared. "For such a big man he is amazingly quick."

Most of Lewis' sparring has been against much lighter men and when wearing gloves of over 20 ounces, the heaviest ever used. "Imagine what Lennox will feel in his hands when he gets the ring gloves on," Steward added. "The speed will be phenomenal. I like Tommy Morrison but believe me, he won't last more than a few rounds. The kid is out of his depth."

Morrison smiled when he heard it. In dark eyes inherited from his mother, a full-blooded American Indian, there was a contradiction of the idea that he will soon lose all interest in tapping anybody on the chin.

Steelers face tough task against hosts

Ice hockey

Sheffield Steelers begin their quarter-final campaign in the Europa Cup in Tilburg against hosts Keuken Trappers this evening before facing the favourites, Olimpia Fetz, from Slovenia tomorrow and Spain's Turi Urdin on Sunday.

With just one team progressing to the semi-finals, the Steelers game against the Slovenian champions is expected to decide the group, although Tilburg could present a tough challenge.

"We haven't set ourselves a target," said their coach, Alex Dampier. "This is a new experience for all the guys in the team - except Nicky Chin, who was with Cardiff last year. The Steelers have been strengthened by three major summer signings in Chin, Tony Hand - the game's most prolific points scorer - and the Canadian-born Andre Malo.

Athletics

An unnamed South African athlete has been suspended for the use of a banned substance during an All-Africa invitation meeting in Johannesburg last month. The athlete will be named today after being informed of the result.

Baseball

Jim Leyritz hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the 15th inning to lift the New York Yankees to a 7-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners. It took them to a 2-0 lead in the five-set series. The game lasted 5 hours 13 minutes, the longest night game in play-off history.

AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Cleveland 4, Boston 0 (Ottawa 2-0); Boston 5, Los Angeles 4 (Atlanta 2-0); Cleveland 5 Los Angeles 3 (Cincinnati 2-0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Atlanta 7, Cincinnati 4 (Ottawa 2-0); Chicago 5, Los Angeles 4 (Atlanta 2-0); Cincinnati 5 Los Angeles 3 (Cincinnati 2-0).

Boxing

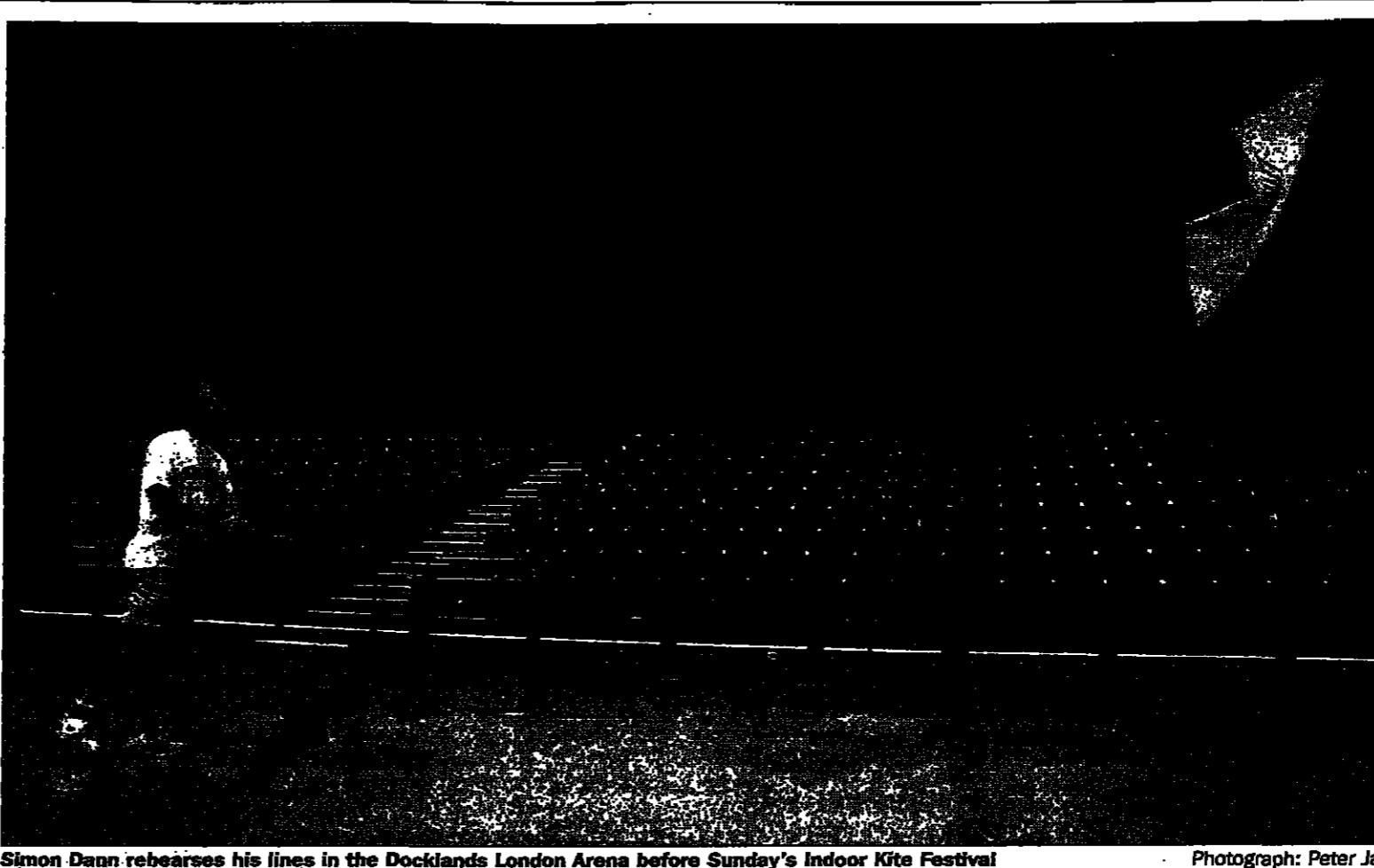
Johnny Armour, the European Boxing Union bantamweight champion, has been ordered to make a mandatory defence of his title against the British champion Drew Doering.

Cricket

Midwest have released the fast bowler Kevin Shiue has been released after two years with the club.

Cycling

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Nanjing, China): Women's road time trial: Great Britain 1:03.8 (Gill 1:03.8); 2: 1.1 (Long 1:03.8); 3: 1.2 (Kerr 1:03.8); 4: 1.3 (McGregor 1:03.8); 5: 1.4 (Hargreaves 1:03.8); 6: 1.5 (Watt 1:03.8); 7: 1.6 (Kerr 1:03.8); 8: 1.7 (McGregor 1:03.8).



Simon Dann rehearses his lines in the Docklands London Arena before Sunday's Indoor Kite Festival

Photograph: Peter Jay

Indoor kite flyers indulge in high life

This is not an elaborate joke. Apologies for the caveat, but just about everyone I've spoken to thinks indoor kite flying is impossible, as ridiculous as rowing races with a basketball. Don't believe me either? Then pop along to the London Arena in Docklands on Sunday and watch the British (though it could be the European or maybe even the world) indoor championships.

Sorry to be a bit vague about it. But indoor kite flying is so new that even experts are still learning how to do it. Though Dave Brittan, the American who has kept a kite flying indoor, is at the leading edge of kitecraft, was stunned when he first discovered that wind is an optional extra. "I was at a festival in Le Touquet and the prize-giving took place in a large leisure hall with a swimming pool. A Frenchman, Pierre Marzin, brought along a kite and to our amazement, stood in the shallow end and flew it. I discovered later that he went to basketball matches to give demonstrations, and finished by dunking his kite in the net. I was knocked out I thought: 'This is the cutting edge.'

Boye quickly bought a £250 indoor kite. Superficially it is similar to the outdoor model, but though it's 8ft across, it weighs just a few ounces. You don't need open windows or giant fans to make it fly, either.

"That would cause turbulence and for kite flying, need no smoothness," says Boyce. Outdoors, the wind does the work. Indoors, it's all done with a swerve of the hips, a flick of the wrist or actually running backwards. This is enough to send the kite soaring and dipping like a bird celebrating springtime.

Kites love it, because it allows them to create 3-D manoeuvres that are impossible outdoors, such as dragging one wing along the ground in a complete circle. Traditional kite flying is dependent upon wind direction indoors, there are no limits. "You are flying the kite, rather than the kite flying itself," says Boyce. But it's much harder work. "You have to keep moving to create your own wind," says kite-maker Chris Matheson, who set a world two-line indoor record of 2hr 2min last year. At the end of that record, my legs were like jelly. You don't walk backwards in normal life. The next day, it was agony just to move

up to 250,000. Still, Olympic dreams may be a little premature. "I phoned the Sports Council about getting some grant aid and discovered that we were so far down the list that even spear fishing was in front of us," Boyce said.

Even explaining the appeal of kite flying embarrasses its leading exponents. Matheson says: "When I am flying my kite, and there is just me, the kite and a nice wind, I forget about everything else. I don't think about moving the kite around with my hands, I feel what the kite is doing. I am that kite." He laughs self-consciously. "Really sad, isn't it."

Ah, those old Calvinistic genes still stubbornly condemn anything that looks suspiciously like fun. But kite flying is developing as fast as any sport. Matheson's indoor record, for example, looks certain to be broken on Sunday.

There will also be attempts on the four-line and single-line record, though the individual competition (compulsory and freestyle manoeuvres) will be better to watch. Meanwhile, indoor flying has spawned an even more spectacular off-shoot, called barfing (bridge and roof flying) by its participants.

"It all started when we were going to Bristol kite festival and crossing Clifton suspension bridge," Matheson recalls. "We were complaining that a bummer it was that we kept hitting the ground when flying. Suddenly it hit us that if we flew off



KEITH ELLIOTT

at large

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Word spread. Others tried it and were stunned by barfing's possibilities. Matheson and several friends have now flown most of the main London bridges and a few buildings too.

"Yes, it's slightly anarchic but it's harmless and doesn't cause any damage," Boyce says. "We get moved on by the police but when we do it in the early evening, commuters seem to enjoy it. Tower Bridge is wonderful at night because it's lit from underneath."

The sport has already reached the United States and Australia where barfiers have flown Sydney Bridge. Matheson's dream is to fly the London stations such as Euston, with their huge vaulted ceilings. "I would have to do it about 3 am," he said in a voice that hints it's more than an idle dream.

The cynical may say that new-tech kites or not, it's still a sport worthy of adults. But wait a minute... China's passion for kites is well documented. India has a national kite flying day, and even Bristol's annual festival attracts 50,000 spectators. The world championships, near Melbourne next month, will attract

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sport

Britain begin with a flourish

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Glasgow

Britain dominated a keenly contested opening day of the Maureen Connolly Trophy match against the United States here and are in a strong position to win the 21- and under women's transatlantic team competition for the third year consecutively.

Lucie Ahl, Mandy Wainwright and Lizzie Jeffs, Britain's highest-ranked female player at No 224 in the world, refused to be deterred by setbacks in winning the opening three singles rubbers, and Wainwright partnered Kate Warne-Holland in a doubles success which gave Britain a 4-0 lead.

Equally important, Ann Jones, the team captain, saw enough close points at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre to be wary of an American recovery today and tomorrow, even though Britain need to win only two of the seven remaining matches.

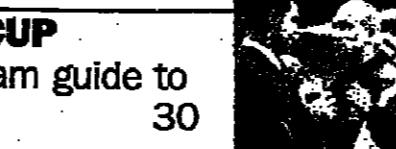
Jeffs, making her debut in the event, which is presented by ADT Auctions, consolidated the earlier efforts of Ahl and Wainwright by defeating Kristin Sanderson, 7-6, 6-2. The 19-year-old from Oxfordshire had to endure an uncertain opening set in which she was unable to convert any of three break points at 4-4 and saved two set points at 5-4 before winning the tie-break. 7-3. Jeffs then recovered from losing her serve in the first game of the second set and went on to win in 70 minutes.

Ahl and Wainwright are both in the process of playing their way back to form after taking a break from the sport. Ahl, from Devon, missed most of the summer because of a wrist injury, and Wainwright, from Essex, decided to take time off after Wimbledon to work on her game.

Both gave resolute performances yesterday. Ahl fought through two hours and 34 minutes against Farley Taylor, forcing her way back from 0-3 in the final set to win, 6-4, 2-6, 6-7. Wainwright saved two set points in an opening set tie-break in defeating Marissa Callin, 7-6, 6-4, after an hour and 55 minutes. Warne-Holland, a 20-year-old from Stockport, marked her first appearance by joining Wainwright in a 6-



Flying in formation: Sohail (No 2) and company sail high over the water on the first circuit of the Oak Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase at Wincanton yesterday. Bankroll (in the middle of this trio) was in the money, the 7-4 favourite winning by 25 lengths. Racing, page 29



Bohinen incurs Forest wrath

Football

JON CULLEY AND PHIL SHAW

Lars Bohinen, the Norwegian international, agreed to leave Nottingham Forest for Blackburn Rovers yesterday to the accompaniment of an outspoken broadside from his dismayed former manager, who accused him of exploiting Forest's goodwill for his own personal gain.

The 29-year-old midfield player, for whom Forest might have asked £2m at today's market value, will move to Ewood Park next week subject to a medical for a cut-price £700,000, as a result of a sell-on stipulation in his contract with the Nottingham club.

But Frank Clark, the Forest manager, in a rare show of anger, attacked Bohinen for putting money ahead of loyalty. He will more than double his income by joining the struggling

Premiership champions. This follows months of negotiations in which the player and his former representative, Andy Gross, a Swiss lawyer, are thought to have demanded £500,000 for the cancellation of the sell-on clause, which limited Forest to £250,000 profit on the £450,000 they paid Young Boys of Berne for Bohinen almost two years ago. Bohinen's deal with Forest gave him the right to a transfer at any time to any club prepared to pay the £700,000 fee.

Clark, choosing his words carefully, said: "Lars is not the first player to move for money, but I feel very disappointed in him and very let down. You learn from your mistakes and I would never again let anyone have that sort of clause, but when he first joined us I agreed to it as security for him."

"We were a First Division club and not doing particularly well, he was a relatively unknown Norwegian with no experience of England. They asked for this clause as a little bit of comfort for Lars should he not settle in England, should he be unhappy at Forest, should Forest not be successful. It gave him an escape clause."

The Forest chief added that Gross, who has also represented Jürgen Klinsmann, had asked for Bohinen's new deal to include a clause similar to that which contributed to the ill-feeling between Klinsmann and the Tottenham chairman, Alan Sugar, following the German striker's transfer to Bayern Munich.

"In a further complication, Bohinen has since sacked Gross. In his talks with Blackburn, he has been represented by Frank Mathiesen, the former general manager of FC Copenhagen, now a licensed Fifa agent running a firm called Dan Player, based in the Danish capital.

Clark paid Gross an unexpected tribute. "He has screwed me to the ground but in a fair, tough, honest way and he has looked after Lars' affairs very well," Clark said.

Bohinen's contract with Blackburn, who have been desperate to find a creative midfield player after their poor start to

the season, is thought to be worth around £10,000 per week, compared with an estimated £4,000 per week offered by Forest. He will also receive a substantial signing-on fee.

Capped 38 times by Norway and likely to face England in Oslo next week, Bohinen is reported to have said yesterday:

"I was happy at Forest, but everything is bigger here."

His decision suddenly to drop Gross sparked speculation that the deal might carry the fingerprints of Rumy Hauge, the agent currently suspended over his role in the George Graham "bung" affair. Blackburn, fearful of possible consequences, contacted the FA to clarify their position should this be the case, but appear to have satisfied themselves about the parties involved.

Hauge has a previous connection with Mathiesen, having brokered the transfer of Torben

Piechnik to Liverpool from FC Copenhagen while Mathiesen was general manager. The Piechnik deal is among those the Premier League's so-called "bung-busting" team, set up in the light of the Graham affair, has set out to investigate.

Clark added: "I don't know anything about Hauge. He tried to get involved when we signed Lars originally, but Lars and Andy Gross bombed him out."

The Forest manager, steering clear of emotive language, said: "Someone, I don't know who, has been touting Lars about for six months and two English managers told me this summer that his situation had been brought to their knowledge.

"But I must stress that Blackburn have acted totally honourably in every aspect of this deal. Ray Harford is a friend of mine and I wouldn't expect it to be any different."

Cardiff rugby union club may not be able to afford Jonathan Davies. Warrington yesterday told Cardiff, one of three clubs who have tried to tempt Davies back to his roots, that the 33-year-old Welsh rugby league captain can leave, but only with a hefty compensation payment.

Davies, who turned professional from Llanelli for Widnes

almost six years ago, joined Warrington in July 1993 when the Chemics were unable to afford his contract payments.

Gareth Davies said: "It was up to Warrington to discuss it and come back to me which they will probably do next week. But there is no big money in Wales to buy contracts and Cardiff cannot afford to buy Jonathan out."

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almost six years ago, joined Warrington in July 1993 when the Chemics were unable to afford his contract payments.

Graham Armstrong, the Warrington chief executive who met his Cardiff counterpart, Gareth Davies, yesterday, said: "We had a 75-minute meeting at the motorway services and Cardiff have now made an official approach. However, Cardiff made no professional proposals and we stated our position clearly."

"Jonathan is under contract with us until June 1997. He is not on the transfer list and is not for sale. We want him to stay but, if he ever did leave, we would insist on compensation on top of his contract payments."

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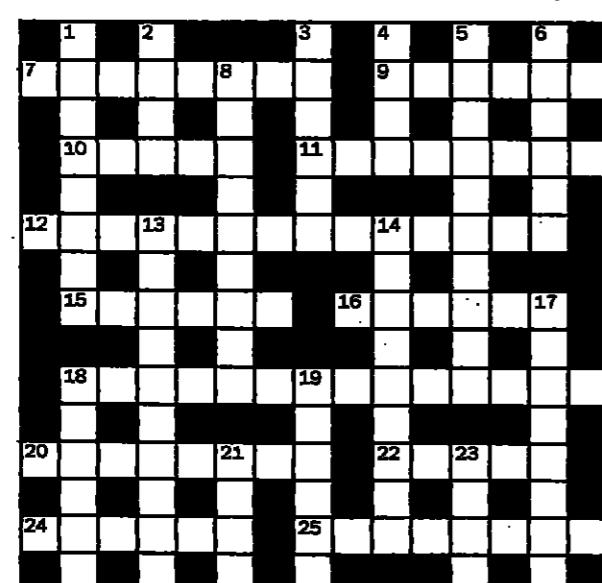
Clive Griffiths, who is Wales' rugby league coach and also Warrington's assistant coach, has criticised Cardiff's actions, which he said had affected Welsh preparations for Monday's cup opener against France. "Jonathan wants to concentrate on the World Cup and everything else has been put in the background until the competition is over," he said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2798, Friday 6 October

By Phil

Thursday's solution



ACROSS

7 PC in here disentangled code (8)

9 English leading most of road race round? It could provide a good finish! (6)

10 The gutless in conflict? Good running material (5)

11 Stake involving City - the same story (8)

12 Piece of music, sharp, loud, by Bernstein (last three parts only), possibly (8,2,4)

15 Order a number to return, taking care of unfinished job (6)

16 French delicacy in tin is in a poor condition (6)

18 Was now correct in variation form, absorbing a piece of film music (6,8)

20 Repugnance for leader of thieves intervening in endless calamity (8)

22 Force one Member to rush, being taken short (5)

24 Computer equipment runs during cut (6)

25 Abode of hapless police (though showing style following clues) (5)

DOWN

1 Arctic footwear is currently quiet on half of foot (4-4)

2 Beer? There's little new in mine (4)

3 Have a meal in attempt to achieve agreement (6)

4 Graduate teacher takes on English, though an expert in ancient history (4)

5 In translation, I read a blue French poet (10)

6 Staying sober in most of brawl shows firmness of character (6)

8 Instrument with which to damage working contemporary art venue (9)

13 Disparaging spinning record "Love sounds" in energetic dance (10)

14 Nobody not nimety is dodgy? (9)

17 Deciding student is involved in posing problems (8)

18 I added to 10 will make 24? (6)

19 Stop design of squares (6)

21 Choice of ends for service gets you aggrieved (4)

23 Attempt to make hole in 80% of soft material (4)

Bould's England recall

Steve Bould, the Arsenal centre-back, was yesterday recalled to the England squad in place of the injured Newcastle defender Steve Howe for next week's friendly in Norway. Terry Venables, the England coach, was left with only Tony Adams and Gary Pallister as centre-backs after Howe's withdrawal. Neil Ruddock, the first-choice replacement, was called up David Ginola, even though the Newcastle forward is doubtful with a thigh injury.

Members of the Northern Ireland squad for their European Championship qualifier in Liechtenstein will not be allowed to play for their clubs this weekend. With key strikers Iain Dowie and Keith Gillespie suspended, Bryan Hamilton is unwilling to risk any more injuries in the build-up to Wednesday's match, following yesterday's

withdrawal of the Queen's Park Rangers centre-back, Alan McDonald, with a foot injury.

Several clubs have criticised the decision and Mick Gooding, joint-manager of Reading with Jimmy Quinn, one of the players affected, said: "Jimmy has always been very loyal to Northern Ireland and we think they've been a bit unfair to us."

Paul McStay could be out of Scotland's trip to Sweden next week with an ankle injury. The Celtic skipper missed his club's midweek match and faces a fitness test before tomorrow's game.

Glen Heider, the Arsenal winger, has been recalled by the Netherlands for their qualifier in Malta, but his Highbury team-mate, Dennis Bergkamp, is missing with a slight ankle injury.

Coca-Cola Cup draw, Sporting Digest, page 31

international programme because of

injuries, Eric Cantona is set

to continue his comeback in

Manchester United's reserves

tomorrow against Leeds reserves.

However, Cantona learned

yesterday that he has been left

out of France's squad for next

week's European Championship

qualifier in Romania. Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, has

called up David Ginola, even

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Zealand 3-0 in their series ear-

lier this year.

John Hopoate, the Manly

winger, and Jim Dymock, the

Sydney Bulldog's loose forward,

are in the starting line-up and

are the only uncapped players in

Bob Fulton's selection.

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South Africa, who play Fiji at

Keighley on Sunday, have called

in a sports psychologist, Nick

Morris, to aid their preparations.

Morris once worked with

Harlequins rugby union club.

"He talks to the players individually and gets them to believe in themselves," South Africa's

coach, Tony Fisher, said. "A calming influence and that's good because, although they are naturally aggressive players, he helps to keep that under control."

A group of Papua New Guinea

players have been told by Hull

police there will be no charges

against them after a complaint

from a woman who had been in